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HOW TO

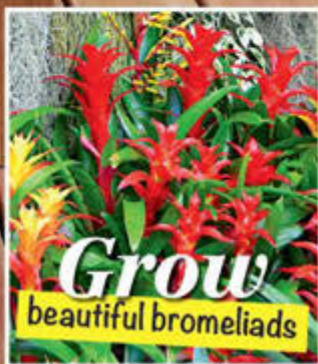
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*renovate*

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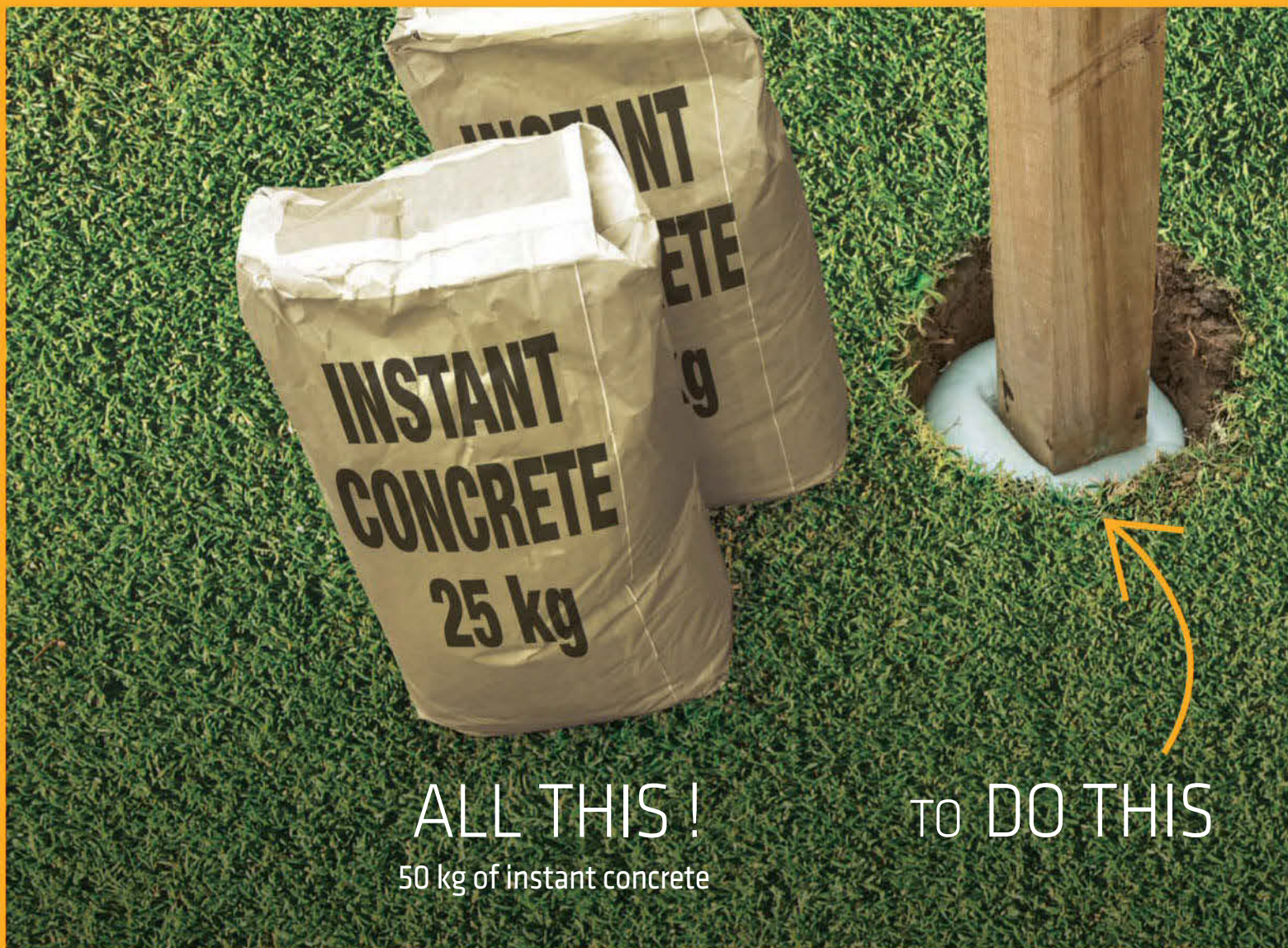
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# JULY ISSUE



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COVER PHOTOGRAPHY SUE FERRIS  
STYLING GEMA BENEITEZ

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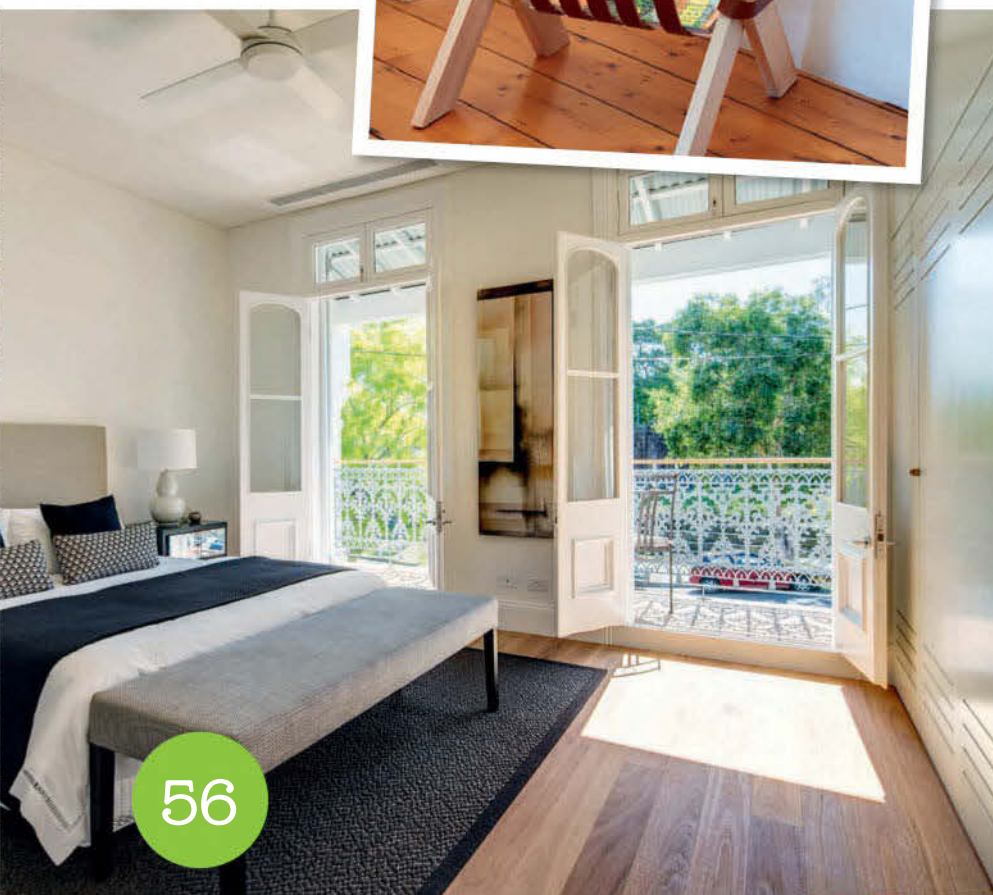
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## THIS ISSUE

## EDITOR'S LETTER



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**N**ow is an ideal time to add an extra living space in the backyard, with all of the great heating options available.

We show you how to build the deck on the cover, step-by-step, on page 16. You can enjoy this space during winter and through to when the warm weather returns.

You could also install a fire pit like blogger Melissa Darr, on page 26. She took an open part of her garden and created an entertaining area, which will look even more inviting in a few years when her plantings grow larger.

### **Banish workshop clutter**

My old workshop was a gloomy mess and I could never find anything. I often gave up and went out and bought what I needed. Does this sound familiar?

After tidying up and adding shelves, cabinets and drawers, I now know where everything is, and it's easier to keep surfaces clean. If your work space

is out of control, take inspiration from the makeover on page 78.

### **Floating floors**

Although most people feel the wall colours make the most impact in a room, flooring is the surface that really sets the tone.

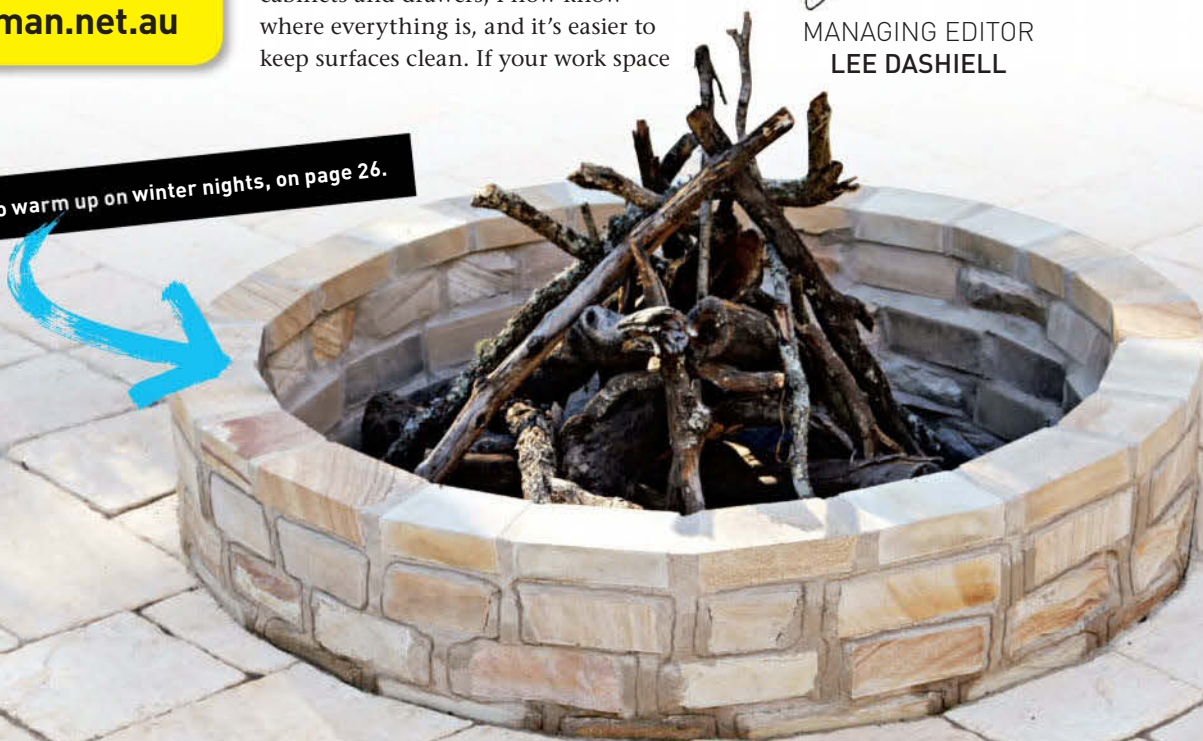
For an industrial look, polished concrete is best, while you can't go past carpet to keep a bedroom cosy.

But for busy areas of the house, you need hard-wearing flooring, and it is difficult to beat floating floors as an easy-to-install DIY solution. See the instructions on how to get this look in your own home on page 32.

Enjoy the issue,

MANAGING EDITOR  
**LEE DASHIELL**

**Build a fire pit to warm up on winter nights, on page 26.**





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## HANDY STUFF



### Weather watcher

Help your garden grow by keeping an eye on the elements with a McGregor's Digital Weather Station Thermometer, \$30 ([mcgregors.co.nz](http://mcgregors.co.nz)). It has a weather indicator and displays temperature, humidity and moon phases, so you won't end up with frost-damaged plants or overwater the vegies.



### Canine cosy

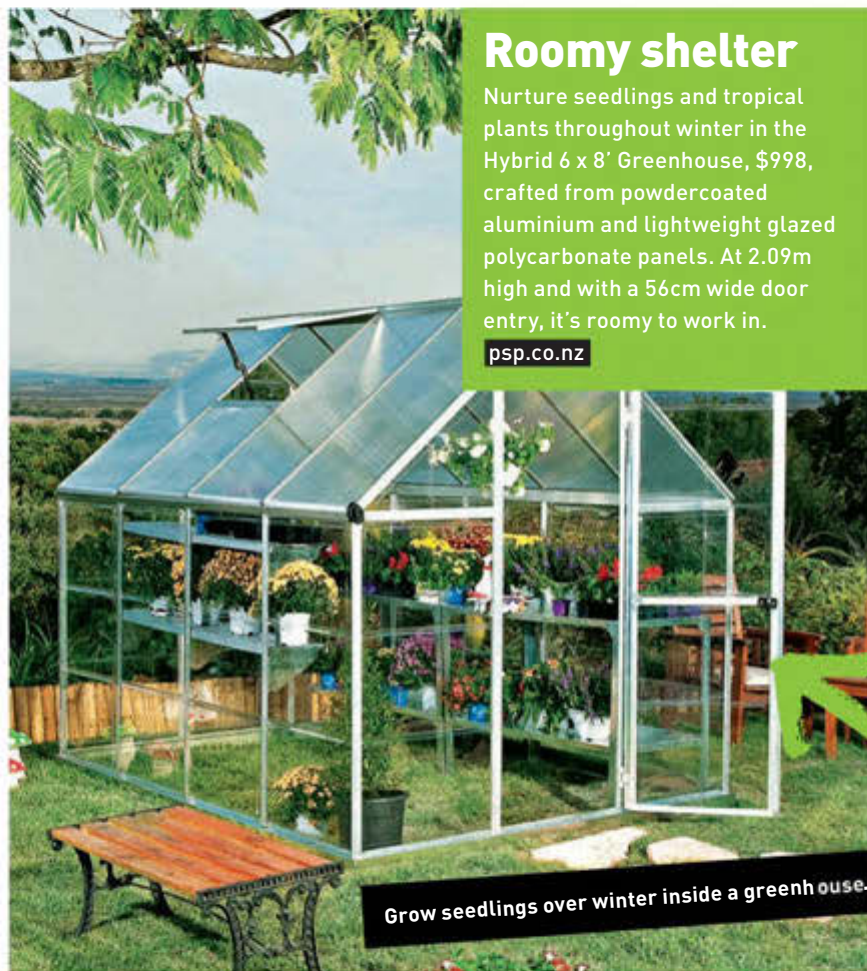
Keep your pooch well protected from the chill of winter in a Rosie's Pets Large Dog Kennel, \$139. The durable plastic exterior will guard your furry friend from wind, rain and sun. There's no need for tools to assemble the kennel and spikes on the underside keep it in place.

[bunnings.co.nz](http://bunnings.co.nz)

## DEALING WITH WINTER

Make sure the house and garden are ready for when the mercury drops

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT



### Roomy shelter

Nurture seedlings and tropical plants throughout winter in the Hybrid 6 x 8' Greenhouse, \$998, crafted from powdercoated aluminium and lightweight glazed polycarbonate panels. At 2.09m high and with a 56cm wide door entry, it's roomy to work in.

[psp.co.nz](http://psp.co.nz)

Grow seedlings over winter inside a greenhouse.

### Pause paws

Are possums pinching fruit or is your dog digging up the garden? Try the On-Guard Dig Stopper Possum Guard, \$25, from Bunnings. Wrap it around the base of a tree or bury it with the 18mm spikes facing up.



### Spray back

Tackle problem weeds with the McGregor's 12L Knapsack Sprayer, \$60. Several nozzle options allow you to switch quickly from zeroing in on weeds to general spraying. Webbing shoulder straps are comfortable to wear. >

[mcgregors.co.nz](http://mcgregors.co.nz)







## Easy entry

Avoid letting in those blasts of cold air every time your pet goes out with the Hartman 300 x 180mm Medium Pet Door, about \$213 (hartmangroup.co.nz). Its two-piece aluminium construction with 4mm tempered safety glass and lockable vinyl magnetic flap can be permanently or temporarily installed. Fully adjustable, this two-piece pet entrance is an ideal fit for patio and sliding doors.



## Pack 'n' protect

Store away household goods like bedware, crockery or kids' toys in the Malloy 80L Storage Box, \$20. Made from tough-wearing plastic, it measures 670 x 450 x 405mm, has a snap-off lid for easy access and is readily stackable if you decide you need more than one.

[sims-distributing.co.nz](http://sims-distributing.co.nz)

## Quiet close

Shut out brisk breezes and prevent door slams with the adjustable speed Ryobi Doorman Door Closer, about \$79 (ryobi.co.nz). The all-metal unit is fire rated and the spring strength is suitable for internal doors up to 45kg.



## Chill chaser

Make the outdoor entertaining area comfortable for guests throughout the colder months by using the Heatstrip 3200W Classic Electric Outdoor Heater, \$849. The radiant heat will warm a 5.3sqm space and has an anodised alloy casing to maximise corrosion protection.

[heatstrip.com.au](http://heatstrip.com.au)

## Free flow

Install Nylex Gutter Guard, \$16 for 18cm x 20m, to keep gutters clear of debris but allow water to flow freely. It's easy to install and designed to fit most gutters. >

[cyclone.com.au](http://cyclone.com.au)







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## Shut it

Cut back energy bills by closing off unused rooms with a Hume Doors Accent 2220 x 910 x 35mm Door, about \$127. Already primed, just add your own colour. [doors.co.nz](http://doors.co.nz)



## Rug up

Protect feet from icy flooring and soften open-plan spaces with a Luxe Chilli Red 150 x 210cm Rug, \$258 ([stmgroup.co.nz](http://stmgroup.co.nz)). With a plush pile to treat the feet and stretch yarn for plenty of bounce-back resilience, this rug will create a durable feature for the lounge or family room.



## Breeze blocker

Prevent cold air entering your home by installing a Cowdroy Mercury 915mm Door Seal, \$22. Designed for inward opening single doors, it seals 16mm gaps and automatically lifts to clear carpets or flooring. It's easy to install DIY and also keeps insects out. [cowdroy.co.nz](http://cowdroy.co.nz)

[cowdroy.co.nz](http://cowdroy.co.nz)



## TIP

Run a ceiling fan on the lowest setting to push warm air down to where it is needed.

A house can lose up to 40% of its heat out of bare windows.

## Heat hoarder

Cut back energy bills by stopping heat escaping through windows with the Windoware 180 x 210cm Dune Glamour Blockout Roller Blind, about \$141. Made from 100% blockout fabric, the blind is chain operated and can be fitted inside or outside the window frame. [windoware.com.au](http://windoware.com.au)

[windoware.com.au](http://windoware.com.au)

## Snug fit

Keep windows secure when winter winds blow with the Jaeco 121CP Wedge Fastener, \$16 ([jaeco.co.nz](http://jaeco.co.nz)). It's made of stainless steel and designed specifically for wooden joinery.



## Thaw out

Stay warm while drying off on frosty mornings with the Click 3 in 1 Bathroom Heater, \$99. A powerful turbine exhaust fan removes steam and the four infrared lamps provide heat. [bunnings.co.nz](http://bunnings.co.nz)







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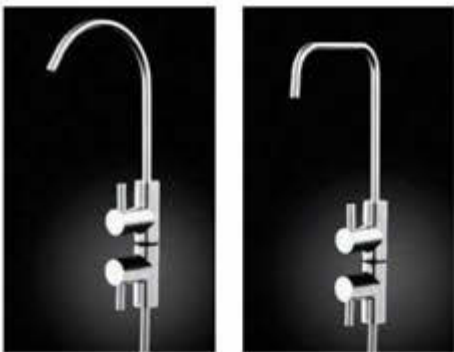
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# What's new

This month, Bunnings has everything you need to sort out those indoor D.I.Y. jobs to make your home warm and cosy for winter.



**BRIGHTEN UP YOUR HOME** The new batten fix range is now available at most Bunnings stores and it's more exciting than ever. Whether you're after a modern, industrial, simple or natural style, we have an option to suit. Batten fixes connect directly to the ceiling, no hanging suspension will show. Must be installed by a registered electrician. From \$9.97 – \$59.98.



**UPGRADE YOUR FILTER TAPS** Aquaport Gooseneck Filter Taps can be attached to an existing system or combined with the purchase of an Aquaport filtration system. Available as a round or a square gooseneck, these taps are universal fit and include a 1/4" Quick Connection piece and mounting set. \$59 each.



**FRESH WATER EVERYDAY** The Aquaport Single and Twin Stage Filter Kits feature a Quick Connect Cartridge System. The Single Stage system features a granulated carbon filter to reduce chlorine taste and odour, and the Twin Stage system also comes with a 1 micron sediment cartridge. From \$139 – \$229.



**PROTECT YOUR LOVED ONES** Keep children and pets a safe distance from your fireplace this winter. This fireguard made from powder coated steel is perfect for the job. 193L x 76H cm. \$96.



**HEAVY DUTY HEAT FROM WORKSHOP HEATING** Warm up this winter with a heater designed for use in workshops, warehouses and similar environments. With fan and diesel heater options, built-in safety features like overheat protection and adjustable tilt, we've got a range of power options to suit. The fan heater range starts at 2400W with models priced from \$99 – \$599. Diesel heater range starts at 30KW with models from \$445 – \$599.



## Take care of your indoor D.I.Y. jobs this winter



**PATCH IT UP** GIB Patch Board is a cost effective and ideal solution for small repair jobs to internal walls. Easily transportable. 590 x 1200mm. \$7.96 each.



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# RENOVATE AN OLD DECK

Lay new boards on existing joists, then add a timber screen to upgrade an outdoor area

PICTURES SUE FERRIS STYLING GEMA BENEITEZ



Blackbutt is a durable hardwood, but treated pine is a good alternative

## After

New boards, furniture and a screen turn the deck into an outdoor room.



## DESIGN TIP

Screen the sides of a deck for privacy and use clear bistro blinds to keep the weather at bay without blocking views.

A timber deck adds value to a home if it's in good nick, and also provides an extra living space.

This deck was reaching its use-by date and needed renovating to make it both safe and inviting.

First, the deck was cleared of furniture, then the boards removed and the old lattice taken down.

The bearers and joists were mostly sound but showing their age, so they were reinforced with treated pine.

Blackbutt boards, 120mm wide, were laid and also used to trim the deck. To replace the lattice, a bespoke screen was built using recycled hardwood boards.

The deck and screen were stained the same colour and a comfortable new outdoor setting added. ➤

Before

## OUTDOOR BUILDS

Decks are exposed to sun and rain, which takes its toll on both timber and hardware, but there are ways to prolong the life of your deck.

➤ Secure timber boards with stainless steel or galvanised screws or nails, and ACQ fasteners for treated decking.

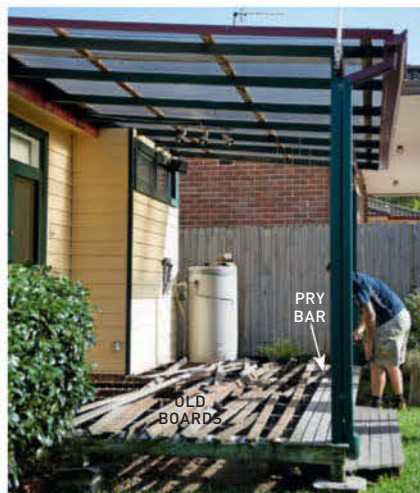
➤ Protect deck boards by applying a stain that will protect against water, UV and mould.

Cabot's Deck & Exterior Water-based Stain, \$79 for 5L. [cabots.co.nz](http://cabots.co.nz)





# LAY THE DECK



## 1 Remove the boards

Lift the old boards from the joists using a pry bar if they were nailed in position, or extract the screws. Cut around corroded nails or cammed out screws to remove the board, then grind off the fasteners or cut off flush with the joist. Check all structural elements to see what needs replacing.



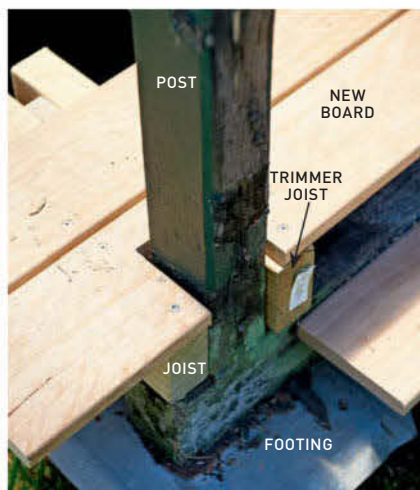
## 2 Reinforce the joists

Attach 90 x 45mm H3 treated pine to the existing 100 x 50mm hardwood joists using 14-10 x 85mm bugle batten screws. Skew-nail the joists to the bearers with 75 x 3.15mm bullethead nails, using timber offcuts or pieces of damp proof course roll as packers to level the joists where necessary.



## 3 Install the boards

Check the board ends and square off if needed. Lay 5-6 rows of boards at a time, staggering the butt joints. Starting flush with the edge, use a 3mm countersinking bit to drill two clearance holes, clamp the boards and attach with 10g x 50mm square drive decking screws, using 5mm spacers.



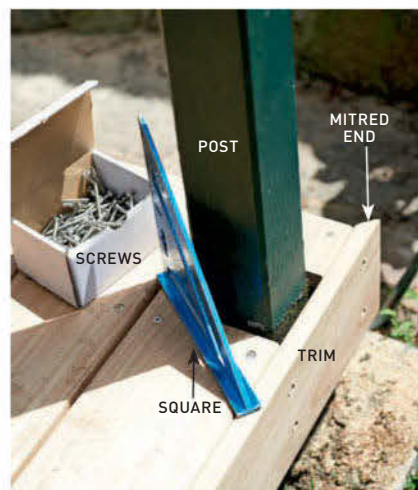
## 4 Notch around posts

Position a trimmer joist parallel to the outside joist with a spacer block in between, securing to the timber post using screws. Measure the posts to cut out notches in the boards with a jigsaw, allowing 10mm clearance. Secure the notched boards to the joist and trimmer joist using screws.



## 5 Cut the overhang

The boards are laid flush with the end of the deck on one side and overhang on the other. When the new decking has been laid, mark a cut line across the overhanging boards using a straightedge, cutting along it with a circular saw. Use a power planer to smooth the cut edges.



## 6 Attach the trim

Measure the finished deck to mark and cut decking boards to length to use for the trim. Cut the joining ends with 45° mitres using a circular saw or a mitre box and tenon saw. Position the lengths of trim along the joists using a square to keep them flush with the deck, securing with deck screws.





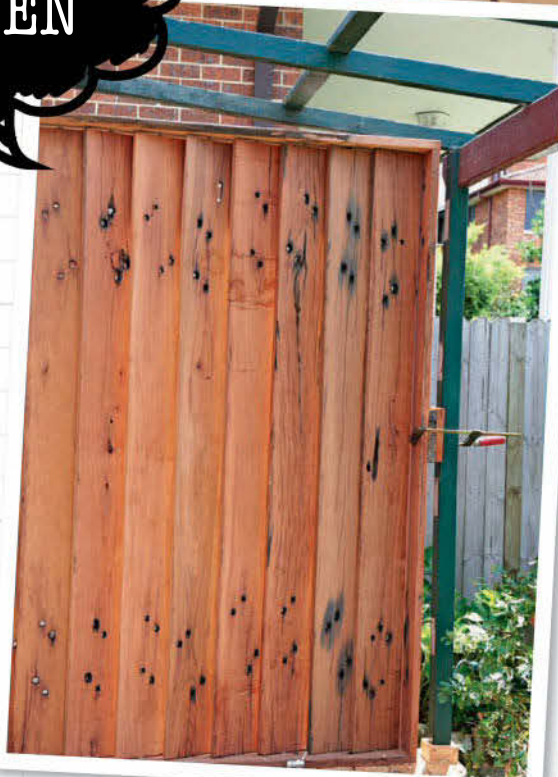
## PRIVACY SCREEN

One end of this deck is open to the garden and the other is exposed to the neighbours and so needs screening.

The original lattice screen didn't offer a lot of privacy and wasn't effective at hiding the water heater located next to the deck.

Recycled hardwood boards were used to custom-build a screen for the space.

The screen is a box frame with slats that pivot, so they move like louvres. ➤



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# BUILD THE SCREEN



## 1 Prepare the boards

Use a trim router and a 10mm roundover bit to arris the edges of the recycled 210 x 30 x 2400mm boards. Sand the boards smooth using a belt sander or, if you don't have one, use a random orbital sander. Cut the boards to length using a circular saw.



## 2 Make the louvre holes

Draw a centreline along the length of the top and base of the box frame. Mark a line 30mm from each end for the frame sides, then mark the louvre centres on the centrelines. Drill 4mm pilot holes and use a 22mm spade bit to open the holes to 15mm deep. Drill a 10mm clearance hole right through.



## 3 Drill the louvres

Make a jig from scrap timber to help locate the end centres of the louvre slats and drill 10mm clearance holes to a minimum depth of 90mm. On the edges of the box frame sides, drill three equally spaced holes. On the ends of the box frame top and base, drill three equally spaced holes.



## 4 Assemble the screen

Use the predrilled holes to secure the frame top to the sides with three screws at each corner. Insert hex head bolts through the louvre holes, add two washers, then position the louvres. Insert the bolts and washers in the base, then attach to the louvres. Secure the base to the sides using screws.



## 5 Secure the screen

Check the bolts are seated in the louvres, then secure in position with a high-strength building filler such as Turbo Builder's Bog. With the help of another person, lift the screen and clamp in position, securing through the base to the joists with screws and to the pergola with brackets.

## CUT THE BOARDS

The screen frame and louvres are made from 2400 x 210 x 30mm recycled boards. For a 2400mm high screen, cut the louvres to 2330mm to allow for the top and base with 5mm clearance. Clamp two boards together to cut with a circular saw. >





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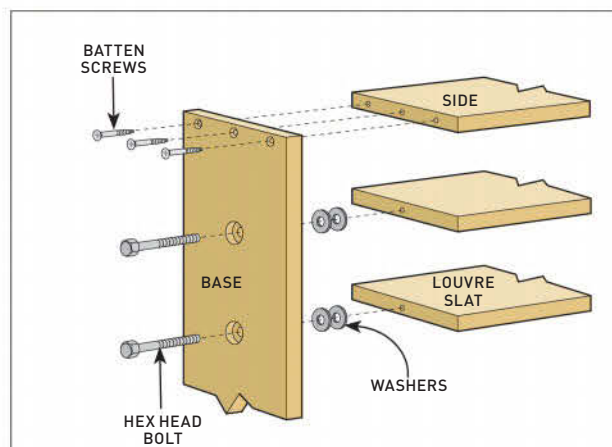
dml

Email: [enquiries@dml.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@dml.co.nz)  
Web: [www.dml.co.nz/tuffblock](http://www.dml.co.nz/tuffblock)



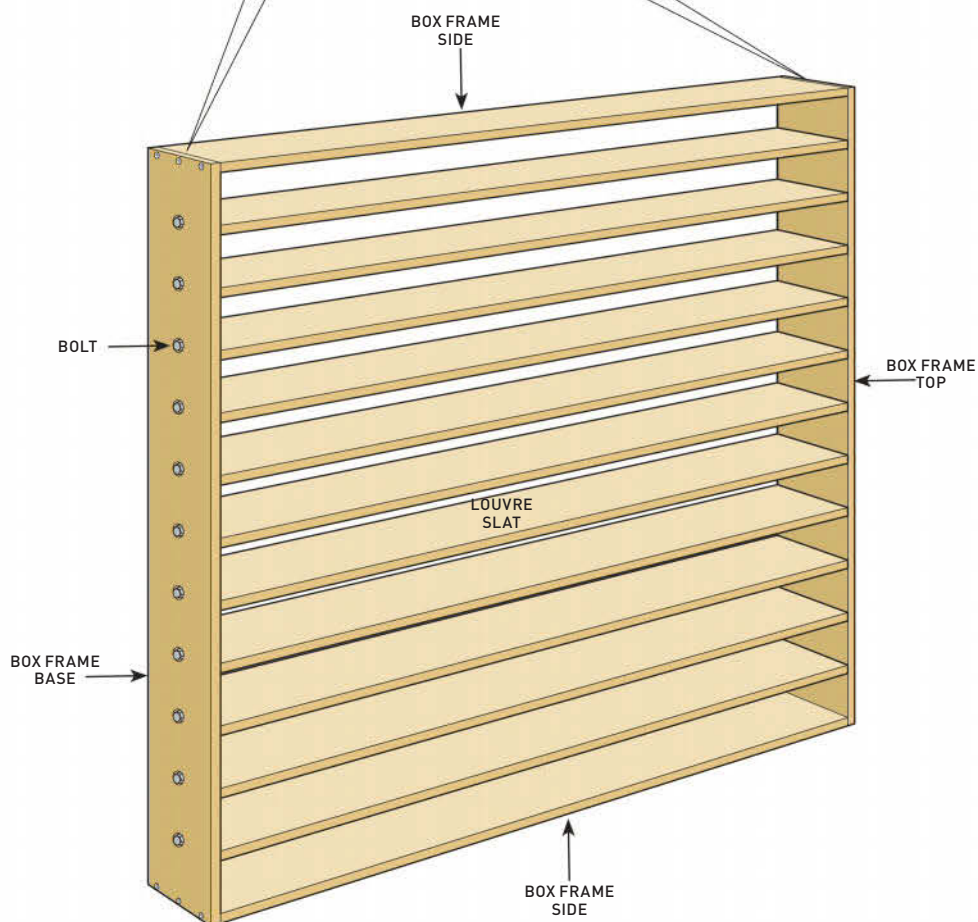
# LOUVRE SCREEN

measurements in mm



## FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Galvanised hex head bolts, 10g x 100mm	Louvres
Galvanised bugle batten screws, 14-10 x 100mm	Box frame





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EASY FOR GATES



EASY FOR SCREENS



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# Handrail revamp

Spruce up sorry-looking railings with paint and balustrade wire

PROJECT AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR

**D**ated and worn, the handrails on these patio steps had seen better days, and DIY blogger Melissa and her handy husband Bevan were keen to restore them.

'The paint on the railings of the stairway was flaking and powdery, and just looked sad and sorry,' says Melissa.

With the patio recently overhauled, a new deck installed off the back of

the house and a herb garden built next to the steps, the handrails were next in line for an update.

The couple set about repainting the railings, then installing wire balustrading that matched the style of the new deck. This helped unify the space and gave the outdoor area a finished look.

## SAFETY TIP

If you have small children, install balustrading around decks and raised patios to prevent any falls.

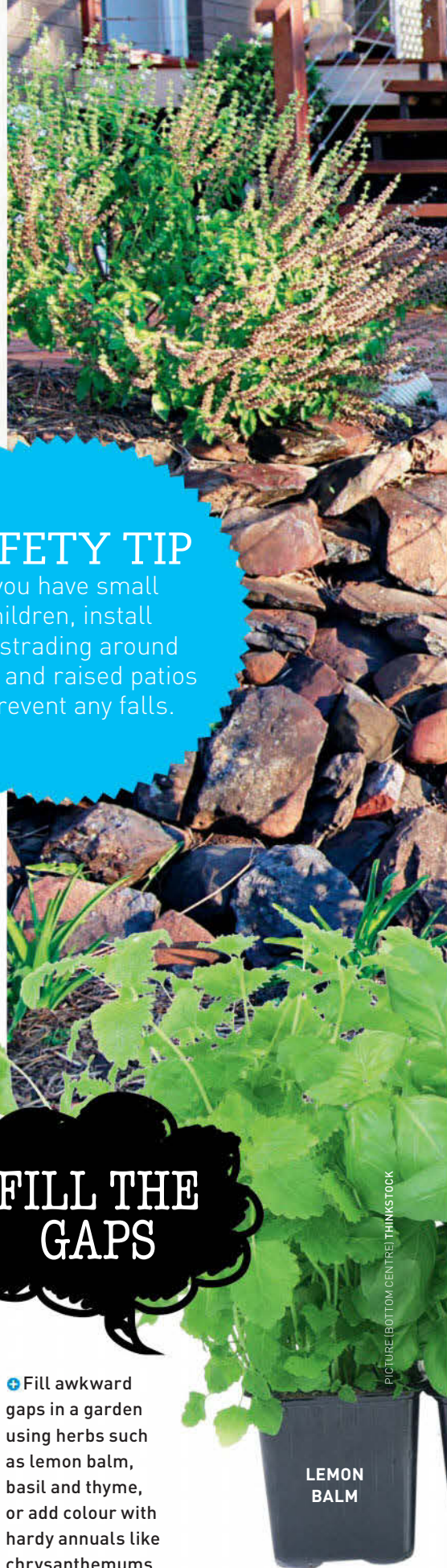
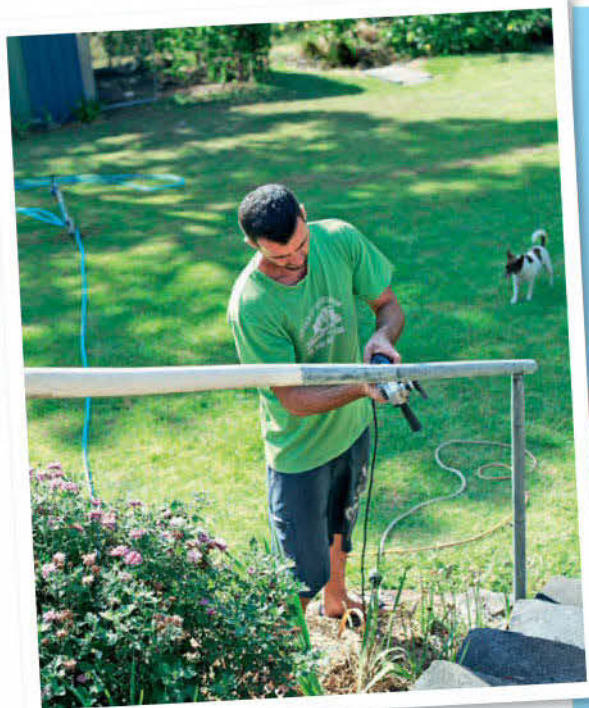
 For more DIY from Melissa, follow her blog [thewhimsicalwife.com](http://thewhimsicalwife.com)

## PREP AND PAINT

- 1 **REMOVE** the flaking paint using an angle grinder with a wire wheel brush attached to expose the bare metal.
- 2 **APPLY** two coats of spray paint to the railings, using a product with an inbuilt primer to save time and to ensure a long-lasting finish.
- 3 **ASSEMBLE** the wire for the balustrade using a kit, available from hardware stores. Drill holes in the posts to secure the saddles, then tighten the wires using the turnbuckles.

## FILL THE GAPS

- Fill awkward gaps in a garden using herbs such as lemon balm, basil and thyme, or add colour with hardy annuals like chrysanthemums.







**After**  
With a coat of paint, the handrails look brand new.




**Before**





## DESIGN TIP

Sketch the area on paper before beginning so you have a clear vision of how it will look when finished.



Melissa

## EXPERT SECRETS

Build with the future in mind, creating solid foundations and using materials that will last for years.





**After**

The patio and fire pit have made the garden much more welcoming.




**Before**

# Backyard fire pit

Turn a bare space in the garden into a paved entertaining area where the whole family can warm up this winter

WORDS AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR



The big backyard of this home had a lot of potential to be transformed into a tidy and appealing entertaining area.

And DIY blogger Melissa and husband Bevan were all the more keen to change the space to detract from the huge shed that dominated it.

'The previous owner was a metal forger and he built this extraordinarily large shed to work in,' says Melissa.

'We planned the arbour and fire pit space to draw the eye away from it.' ➤

## MEL'S PLAN

- **BUILD** a timber arbour and seating next to the shed.
- **LAY** concrete pavers in different sizes to create a French-style rustic patio.
- **USE** sandstone to edge the paving and make a fire pit.
- **PLANT** fast-growing shrubs next to the shed wall.
- **ADD** a border of tidy garden beds on all sides.





### Prepare the site

The arbour was actually built last year, so the paving had to be done with it in situ.

For the arbour, Melissa and Bevan recycled the timber from an old pergola that had stood in the backyard.

Four galvanised stirrups were secured in the ground with concrete. The posts were bolted in the stirrups, then cross beams were cut at an angle at each end and bolted to the top of the posts.

Cross battens were spaced evenly along the sides and top of the arbour, then supports were added in the corners. The whole arbour was then painted white.

The plans for the patio were put down on paper and the site was marked out. A bobcat was used to clear the area, spread a gravel base and level it off.

Bevan then marked out the perimeter with stringline to create a square boundary that would act as a guide for the paving.



### BUDGET TIP

Get a rustic look in your backyard and save money by using recycled timber to build outdoor feature pieces.



Weathered-look concrete pavers help to create a rustic effect.



## BUILD THE PIT

With the area ready for landscaping, Bevan started on the fire pit by marking out the site and excavating the pit to a depth of 400mm.

A first row of reclaimed sandstone blocks was laid and levelled to form a sturdy foundation for the next layers.

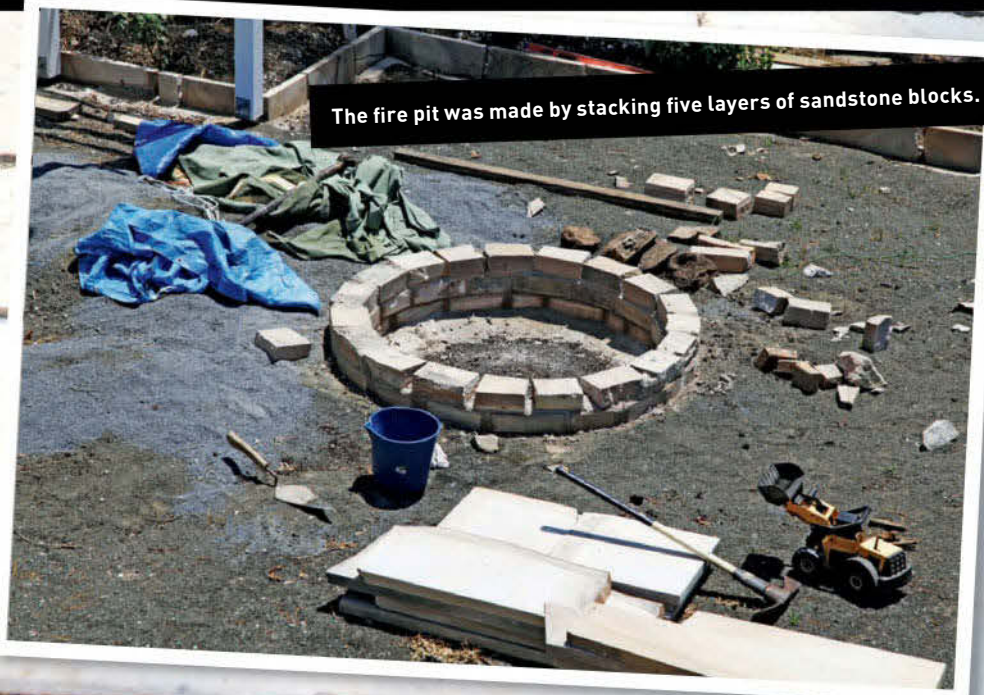
Three more rows of reclaimed sandstone blocks were then laid with cement pointing in between.

A fifth row using new blocks was added to finish it off.


'Bevan created this section a few days after our youngest was born and wrote our names in the foundation of the fire pit,' says Melissa. ➤

★  
Sandstone blocks were used to build the fire pit and edge the patio

The fire pit was made by stacking five layers of sandstone blocks.







To allow easy access, sandstone steps were built into the slope.

## DIY TIP

Laying paving stones is a time-consuming job, so enlist a helper if you need to cover a large area.



### Install the edging

The paving area was built on a slope, so the edging needed to act as a small retaining wall on either side of the patio.

Sandstone blocks were first laid at the end bordering the shed. The concrete pavers were then laid across the site, with edging installed around three sides to create the garden beds.

Steps were also incorporated into one side and an entry was built into another.

## PAVE THE PATIO

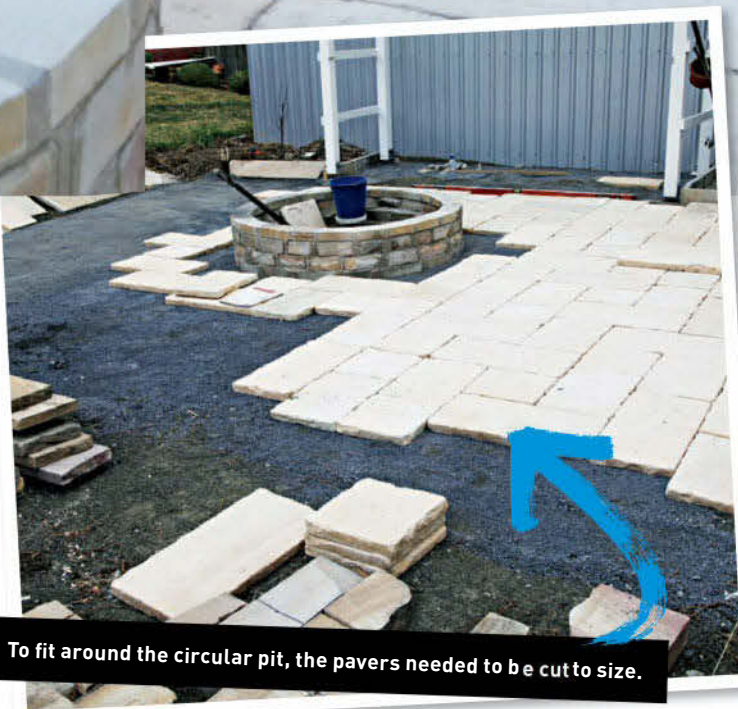
These pavers come in three different sizes and are laid in what's called a random pattern for a rustic effect.

This pattern and the weathered texture make the paving look like it has been there for decades.

'I just adore the look of these pavers, as they are pitted and worn on the top and along the edges, and they fit our French rustic brief,' says Melissa.

Starting in one corner, Bevan laid the pavers on top of the gravel base, cutting them with an angle grinder to fit against the fire pit.

He continued until the whole area was fully paved and then bedded the pavers in using sand.



To fit around the circular pit, the pavers needed to be cut to size.





### Plant the gardens

The arbour was designed to act as the focal point of the area, so a climbing Pierre De Ronsard rose was planted on either side to grow up it.

'I can't wait to train this rose up the arbour and bask in its flowers for years to come,' says Melissa.

Eugenias were planted in the garden beds around the edge of the shed, which will each grow tall enough to conceal it from view.

Pink daisies and salvias were planted in the beds next to the steps, and on each side of the entry, Japanese box was planted in two large recycled pots, repainted in charcoal.



Dense eugenia will grow to about 3-4m high and hide the unsightly shed wall

### GROW TIP

Buy fast-growing plants to give a new garden space an established look within just a year or two.

Salvias provide colourful blooms that are ideal for a country-inspired garden.

### ADD FURNITURE

Ornate wrought iron furniture completes the classic French look.

A three-piece wrought iron table setting was placed underneath the arbour to complete the space and add a little rustic charm.

'I have been enjoying sitting out in the late afternoon as the sun sets, relaxing under the arbour and just breathing in the fresh air,' says Melissa.

'In the years to come, I hope this space will make some memorable moments for us as a family.'



# LAY A FLOATING FLOOR

Make over your home with timber flooring that's quick and easy to install

PROJECT JOHN BOWLER MAIN PICTURE STUART SCOTT

1  
DAY

\$2180  
COST

## Materials

Bamboo flooring	\$2014
Underlay	\$166
TOTAL	\$2180



An easy way to transform your home and add warmth without doing a major reno is to put down a floating floor.

The boards come in a range of colours and materials such as natural timber glued to plywood and laminated melamine.

Bamboo boards are a popular choice, as they're eco-friendly, durable and harder than oak.

The old worn cypress floor of this 28sqm lounge and dining area was replaced with Harris Wood Bamboo Flooring, \$96 for a 1.37sqm box, from Bunnings. >



Before laying the floor, check the clearance under the doors. Use a block and a pencil to scribe at least an 8mm clearance, then remove and trim the door.



These pre-finished boards simply click together to cover almost any existing floor and provide good insulation when combined with an underlay.



## DESIGN TIP

Lay boards lengthways using the longest wall, as laying them crossways can make a room appear narrower.

## TOOLS

CIRCULAR SAW,  
MITRESAW, JIGSAW,  
BRAD NAILER



Floating floors expand and contract after installation, so leave a 6-8mm gap around the perimeter of the room at all walls and fixed vertical obstructions.



The boards respond to temperature and moisture changes, so leave them in the room where they'll be laid for at least 48 hours before installing them.



Made from woven strands, bamboo boards are much harder than oak

A rich look and durability have made bamboo a popular choice for flooring.



# INSTALL THE BOARDS



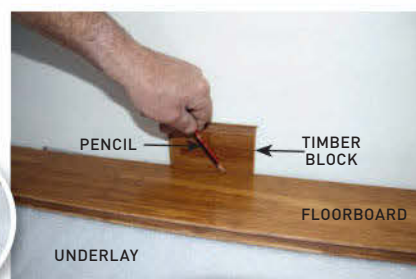
## 1 Trim the architrave

Remove the old skirting boards with a chisel levered off a block, taking out any protruding nails. As a height guide, place flooring and an underlay offcut against the architrave and trim off the base using a multi-tool saw.



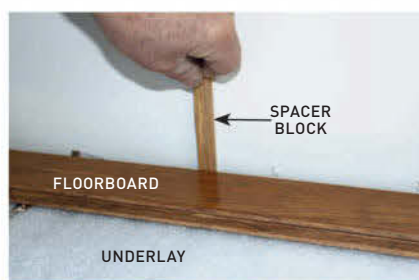
## 2 Tape the underlay

Roll out the underlay foil side down with the tape edge by the wall, peel off the cover strip and secure to the floor. Secure the other edge with duct tape and trim with a utility knife. Overlap the join with the next strip.



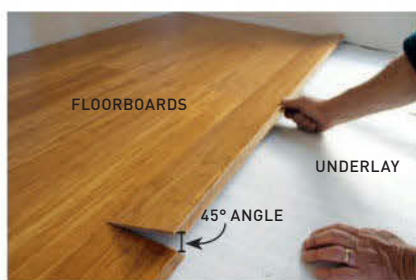
## 3 Scribe the first row

For a neat fit along the wall, use a pencil and a small timber block to scribe a line on the first row of boards, allowing for the expansion gap. Check the corners for square, then use a small circular saw to cut along the line.



## 4 Add the spacer blocks

Position 6-8mm spacer blocks behind the starter boards and at the ends to create an expansion gap. Make sure the first row is square by using the 3-4-5 method. Click the second row in to help keep the boards in position.



## 5 Lay the boards

Place the boards in a random pattern with the joints at least 200mm apart. Angle the boards at 45° and push until they click into place, then tap together. Cut the end boards square to the walls and secure with a pull bar.



## 6 Cut out the door jamb

Click the door board in place, then use a pull bar to tap it on the end to slide it under the cut architrave. Position the next board and mark the cut out for the jamb, leaving 6-8mm for expansion. Cut to shape with a jigsaw.



## 7 Install the last row

Measure the gap for the last board row, allowing for the expansion joint. Clamp the board across a pair of saw stools and rip to width using a jigsaw or circular saw. Click in position and tap together both ways with a pull bar.



## 8 Fit the skirting boards

Remove the spacer blocks at the starter boards, then secure the skirting, starting at the door architraves. Create scribe joints at internal corners and mitre joints on external corners. Secure the skirting with 50mm brads.



A wide selection of finishing trims are also available to complement the look of your new floor





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### Join the boards

Floating floorboards click into each other, eliminating the need for fasteners.

Lay the first row square to a side wall, then in a staggered pattern with overlaps of at least 200mm, checking every 5-6 rows that the boards are still square.

Position each board to be laid at an angle of 45° to the boards that are already installed.

Insert the tongue into the groove then move the board gently up and down while pushing forward and it will click into place.

To tighten the joint, gently tap the board along the side and ends.

Minimise gaps at the end joints by positioning end-to-end boards as close together as possible.



**ABOVE** Use a hammer and block to tap gently along the board.

**BELOW** Use a pull bar to tap the board ends and last row tightly in place.



## COVER THE GAP

**+ REMOVE** all the skirting boards and replace them using 50mm brads when the floorboards have been laid, but never secure the skirting to the floor itself.

**+ USE** floating floor trims to cover the expansion gap around the walls and give the floor a neat, even look.



FLOATING FLOOR TRIM



Blend different shades of the bamboo boards together for a natural finish.



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## DESIGN TIP

Soften hard floors and add warmth underfoot with a rug that matches the look of your home.

Long lasting

# FIND FLOORING TO SUIT YOUR SPACE

Do your homework and choose the right material for each area of your home so it's compatible with your lifestyle

**WORDS** ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

PICTURE THINKSTOCK



## Kid friendly

The wide range of materials on offer for flooring can make selecting what to lay a daunting task, especially if you want to install it DIY and stick to a budget.

When renovating a home, the choice of flooring can set the tone and comfort level for each area.

Evaluate the level of foot traffic through the space and the aesthetic you want to create, plus factors such as water exposure and how much time will be spent standing in each room.

Making a poor choice can result in an expensive refurbishment, so it's also important to consider design elements such as paint and existing furniture.

While it's smart to select the material to suit the specific needs of each room, in open-plan designs, using the same flooring for the entire house is best to unify the space. ➤



Other factors to take into account are pets, kids and your regular activities



High-traffic areas like hallways need durable, low-maintenance materials.

If exercising in the living room is your thing, bear it in mind when choosing flooring.

Pet proof





# CHOOSE THE MATERIAL



TILE

**TILE** is ideal for wet areas and comes in three main materials. Durable porcelain is resistant to chips and scratches, ceramic is the cheapest and easiest to cut DIY, while porous stone is costly and needs regular resealing.

🔧 **DIY OR TRADIE?** Tiling requires accuracy and patience, but have the waterproofing done by a pro.



VINYL

**VINYL** is a top choice in kitchens as it's soft underfoot, durable, low maintenance and mould resistant. Made to last up to 20 years, vinyl comes in planks, tiles or sheets.

🔧 **DIY OR TRADIE?** Laying sheets is simple in small, angular areas. Self-adhesive tiles or planks are easy to install and damaged areas can be easily replaced.



CARPET TILE

**CARPET** is great in areas that need heat and sound insulation, such as a bedroom. Modern machine-made tufted carpets can be dear, but carpet tiles are a very cost-effective alternative.

🔧 **DIY OR TRADIE?** Carpet tiles are very easy to lay DIY, so you can save significantly on having the job done professionally.



LAMINATE

**LAMINATE** is an affordable alternative to timber, ceramic or stone for any room in the home, as it's durable and resistant to scuffs and stains. The boards are laid as a floating floor over a subfloor.

🔧 **DIY OR TRADIE?** Laminate does not need professional installation but for a neat edge on a DIY job, remove the skirting first.



BAMBOO

**BAMBOO** is becoming more popular for use in high-traffic areas. Unlike costly hardwoods, bamboo is highly sustainable, budget-friendly and looks just as good as more traditional timbers.

🔧 **DIY OR TRADIE?** As it is sold as a pre-finished product, bamboo needs no sanding, sealing or polishing, so it's easy to install DIY.



CORK

**CORK** is great in kitchens as it's warm and comfortable underfoot and absorbs impact better than hard surfaces like tiles. It's ideal for allergy sufferers, as it doesn't absorb dust, and offers insulation and soundproofing qualities. It can also be dyed any colour.

🔧 **DIY OR TRADIE?** Laid like vinyl tiles, cork is easy to install DIY.



## SUBFLOOR

The flooring is laid on a structural layer called the subfloor.

The type of material used for a subfloor depends on various factors, such as how even the ground is and whether it will be laid on the first or second level of your home.

• **TIMBER** or steel frames, or a concrete slab, are the most common subfloors.

Concrete is more often used at ground level, while steel or timber are popular for uneven blocks or second storeys.

• **PARTICLEBOARD** or concrete sheeting is required to form a supportive surface over either steel- or timber-framed subflooring. These form an even base for any flooring to be laid straight on top.



### DESIGN TIP

Adequate ventilation is essential for timber subfloors to prevent moisture damage.



### Using underlay

Designed to provide cushioning and acoustic insulation, underlay can be laid under bamboo or laminate floating floors.

It keeps rooms warm in winter and cool in summer, and is mould and mildew resistant.

The 4mm-thick felt pad helps to correct minor imperfections on timber or concrete subfloors. ➤

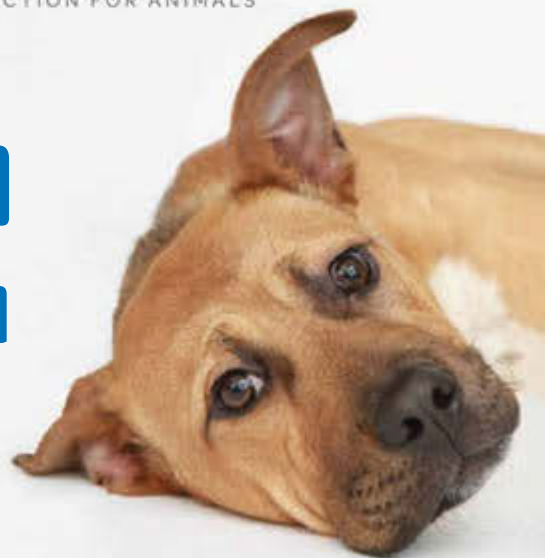


**QEP Floating Floor Felt Underlay, 110 x 850cm, about \$56, from Bunnings.**



**guardians**  
TAKING ACTION FOR ANIMALS

# Will you be our Guardians?



## Taking action for animals

Each year SPCA Auckland helps more than 15,000 sick, injured and abandoned animals. With no funding from the government we rely on supporters in the community to help us do our work.

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- 🐾 Rescue
- 🐾 Rehabilitate
- 🐾 Shelter and rehome
- 🐾 Seek justice



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### Concrete facts

A versatile and affordable material, concrete can be a fabulous flooring option for living areas or kitchens. While it can look cold, its high thermal mass makes it comfortable underfoot.

While concrete finishes are often associated with an industrial look, grey isn't the only option, as pigments can be mixed into the wet product or applied to the surface as stains or dyes.

The two finishes available are diamond polishing, which exposes the aggregate and adds shine, or sealing, where an epoxy finish uses a resinous, two-part material as a sealant.

For a flawless, smooth finish and minimal mess, laying concrete indoor flooring is best left to the pros. 🛠️

As a flooring material for a sleek designer finish, concrete has moved into interiors.

## REFRESH THE FLOORS

When tile grout becomes discoloured or is damaged, replacing the whole floor is unnecessary.

First try cleaning the grout using a soap and water mix or sugar soap.

When the grout lines are clean, apply Cemix Grout Sealer, about \$22 for 500ml ([cemix.co.nz](http://cemix.co.nz)), which will ensure that the grout lines don't get soiled again. The sealer also makes the grout easier to clean and maintain.

If the grout has worn away or is damaged and there is a minimum depth of 1mm available between the tiles, fill the gaps with Cemix Flexible Coloured Grout, about \$20 for 2kg.

Mix it with water and apply using a rubber grout float.



Before

After

With the grout rejuvenated, the tiling looks like it's brand new.





# QUALITY LAMINATE FLOORING

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**HanWood Quality Laminate for living spaces is available in:**

8mm x 1216mm x 196mm – 8 planks per pack  
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12mm x 1218mm x 129mm – 10 planks per pack

**HanWood Waterproof PVC Environmental Laminate Flooring for the bathroom is available in:**

5.5mm x 1217mm x 146mm – 12 planks per pack

**Lamilay Underlay** is available in 4 grades, from the 2mm thick Lamilay White through to the 4mm Lamilay Superfelt, which provides optimum sound absorption, heat regulation plus mould and mildew resistance.



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# CHOOSING LAMINATE

Timber-look flooring is a durable and cost-effective option for the home

**Q** Find it at Bunnings

## DIY TIP

To install laminate flooring, you'll need to buy a floor-laying installation kit, underlay and duct tape.

**Great value**

**Pet proof**



Laminate flooring is one of the most budget-friendly of all timber-look options.

The boards consist of a base of moisture-resistant resins, topped by a woodchip composite layer.

A high-definition image of timber, ceramic or stone is then covered in tough melamine resin.

It is commonly installed floating on top of an existing floor without adhering to the substrate.

Laminate boards are joined with a tongue-and-groove system that simply clicks into position.

If laying over a new concrete slab, leave the concrete to cure for one month per 25mm thickness.



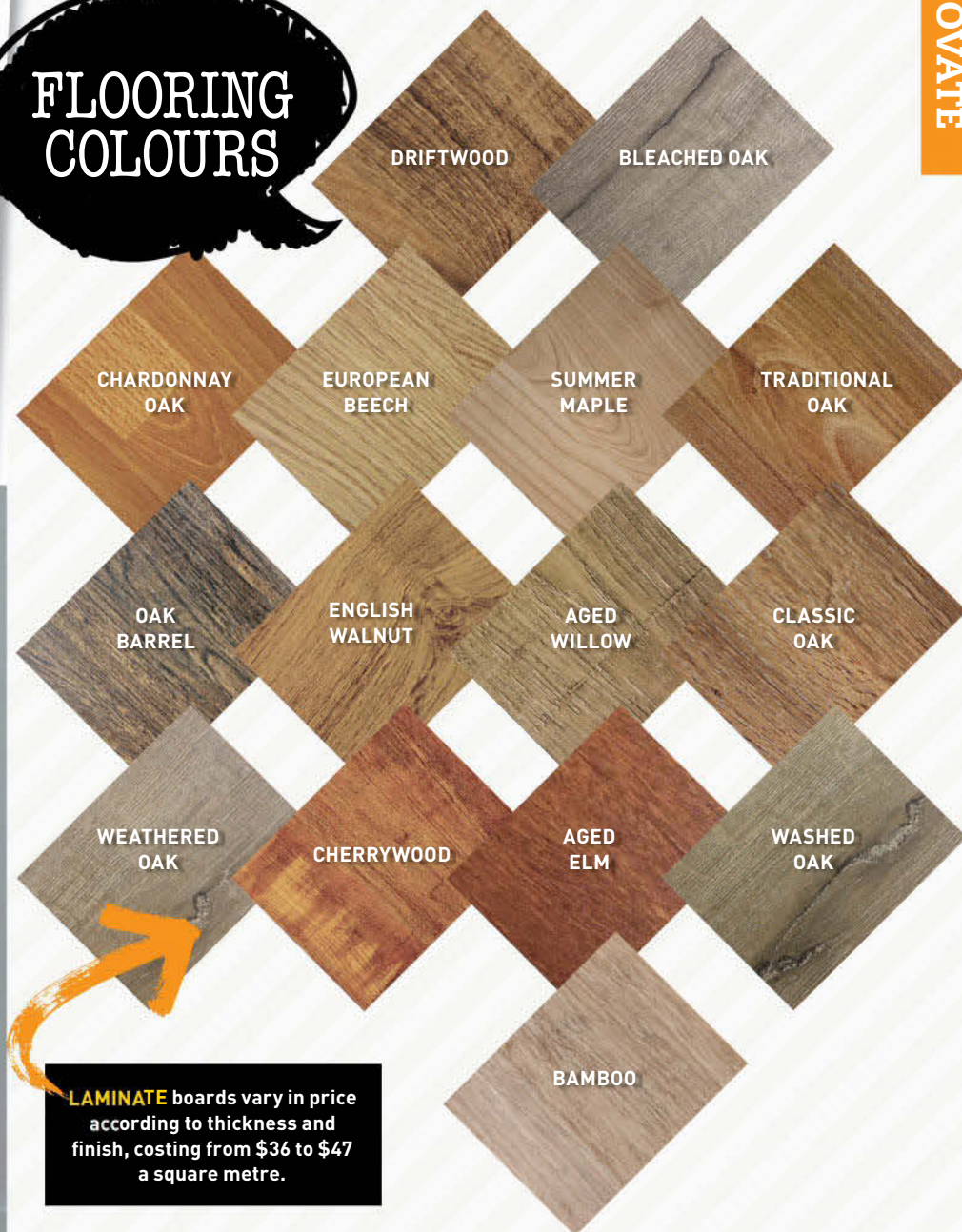
A rich look and hard-wearing finish gives laminate its instant appeal



# FLOORING COLOURS

Kid friendly

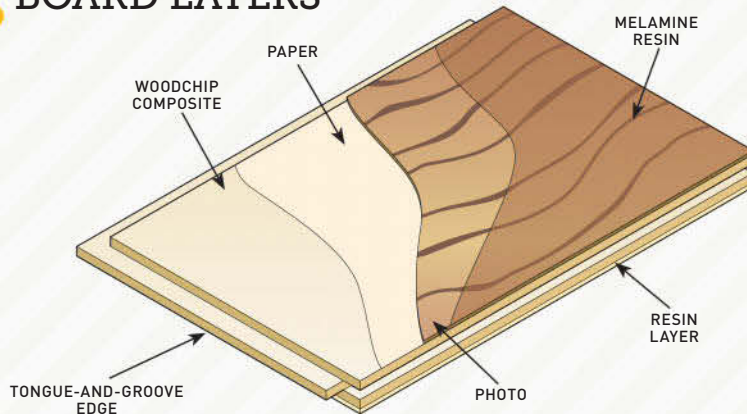
Wide range



**LAMINATE** boards vary in price according to thickness and finish, costing from \$36 to \$47 a square metre.



## BOARD LAYERS





# TOOLS

CIRCULAR SAW, DRILL,  
MULTI-TOOL



Combine storage with  
aesthetics for a walk-in  
robe with true style



# WARDROBE INSTALL

Transform an inefficient and untidy closet space into a functional dressing room

PROJECT FRANK GARDNER MAIN PICTURES STUART SCOTT

## DESIGN TIP

The taller the wardrobe, the more room for shoes and bags at the base, plus double hanging rods.

Storage is something most of us want more of, with closet space at the top of the list. But instead of spending big bucks on a custom build, you can create a space DIY to suit your needs.

Pre-edged 16mm white melamine from hardware stores is available in 400mm and 600mm widths, and various lengths, and is just right for standard carcass construction.

This wardrobe was designed as an L-shape to maximise the available space with a shoe rack, full-length hanging section and wire baskets.

The three carcasses are separated by oval-shaped chrome rods to create double-hanging spaces in between, and topped by a wall-length 595mm deep shelf, for extra storage. ➤

## MAKE THE CUT

✚ **FOR THE MELAMINE** use a circular saw and straightedge clamped in position, or have it cut to size by the supplier.

For greater accuracy, use a matching track system to ensure dead straight cuts every time.

To minimise breakout and chips, use a 40-tooth saw blade.

✚ **CUT THE SKIRTING** so the wardrobe carcasses sit flush against the wall.

Use a multi-tool fitted with a plunge cutting blade to cut and remove 16mm widths of skirting.



## After

Clever design triples the amount of storage in the L-shaped space.



## Before



1  
DAY

\$418  
COST



### Create shoe storage

At 2100mm high, the shoe rack is constructed as a basic box without a back. It measures 325mm deep and 600mm wide.

The base is set 60mm up to allow for a small kickboard that is set 25mm back from the front edge of the box.

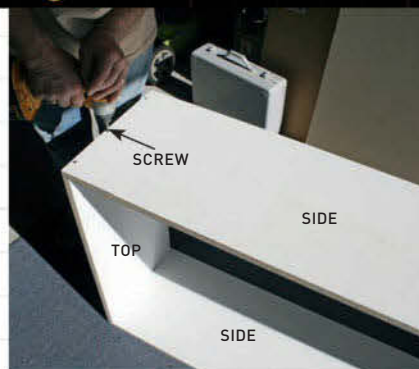
Chrome rod is cut into 596mm lengths and installed as rails to hold the shoes. Set at offset heights with the back rails 40mm higher than the front, they create an effective angled display.

With 10 pairs of rails and extra space at the base, this rack is designed to hold 30 pairs of shoes.

### Materials

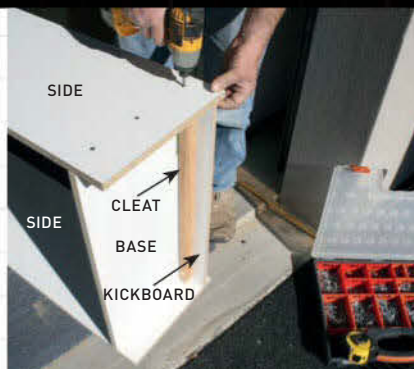
White melamine shelving	\$88
Pine	\$5
Chrome rod	\$210
Tube brackets	\$104
Timber screws	\$11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$418</b>

## BUILD THE BOX



### 1 Assemble the box

Position the top between the sides and flush with the top edges, securing with three screws 8mm from the top edge of the sides. Attach a cleat under the top and flush with the back edge of the sides using screws. Position the base between the sides 60mm up.



### 2 Attach the kickboard

Secure the base through the sides with screws. Drill pilot holes to attach a cleat to the back of the kickboard and flush with the top edge using three screws. Set the kickboard 25mm back from the front edges and secure to the base through the cleat with four screws.



### 3 Mark the brackets

Add a cleat to the base flush with the back edge. Mark the sides from top to base 90mm from the front edges and 85mm from the back edges. Set out the front brackets from 250mm high and the rear brackets from 290mm high, increasing by 170mm.





## SHOE RACK

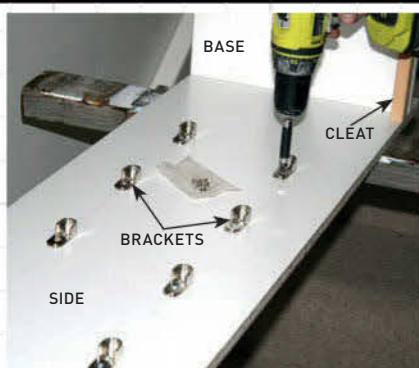
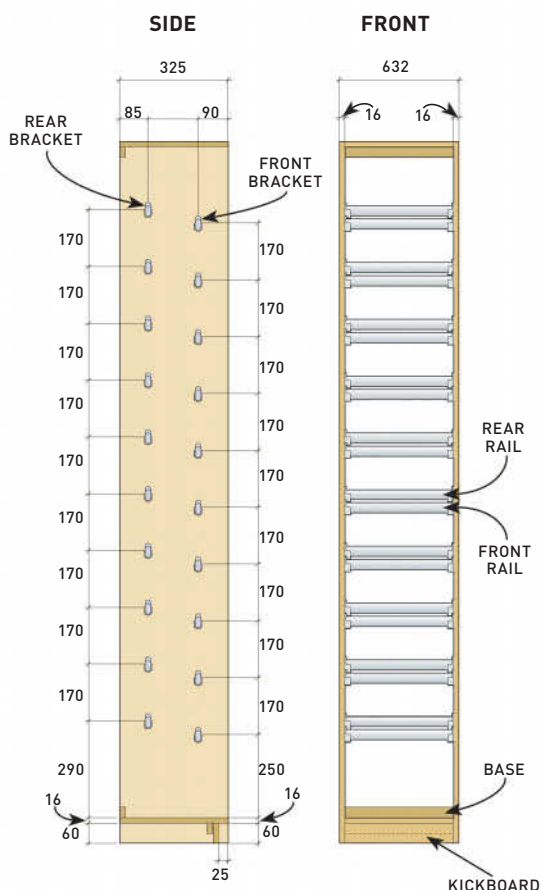
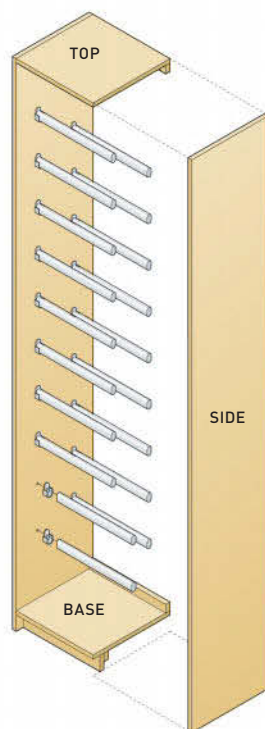
measurements in mm

### CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
<b>White melamine shelving</b>		
Sides	2100 x 325 x 16	2
Top/base	600 x 325 x 16	2
Kickboard	600 x 60 x 16	1
<b>Pine</b>		
Cleats	600 x 42 x 18	3

### FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Timber screws, 40mm x 8g	Box
Timber screws, 50mm x 8g	Kickboard
Timber screws, 25mm x 8g	Cleats



#### 4 Add the brackets

Centre the screw holes in each bracket over the marked centrelines on the sides with the top of each bracket positioned at the marked height. Firmly secure the brackets to the sides using the supplied self-tapping screws.



#### 5 Cut the rod

Measure and mark a 596mm length on the chrome rod and wrap with masking tape. To protect the chrome from scratches and damage, leave the plastic on and clamp the rod securely. Use a hacksaw to cut the rod, filing any burrs from the cut edges.



#### 6 Install the rack

Position the shoe rack against the wall, cutting the skirting where necessary. Secure the top cleat with screws to the wall studs, then clip each rod, pressing them into the brackets with gentle downward pressure. Arrange the shoes on the rack. ➔



1  
DAY

\$376  
COST



### Add a hanging section

This carcass with base drawer is 2100mm high and provides over 1700mm of hanging space.

The base is set 60mm above floor level to allow for a recessed kickboard, with a shelf set 300mm above the base as a top for the push-to-open drawer.

Add brackets for the hanging rail on the inner faces of the sides, located 40mm from the top and 300mm from the front and back edges.

Securing the sides to the top shelf running the length of the wall, and adding the double rails either side, helps to keep them in plumb position.

### Materials

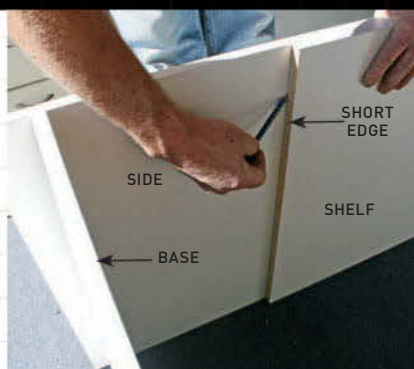
White melamine shelving	\$324
Pine	\$5
Timber screws	\$15
Drawer runners	\$32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$376</b>

## BUILD THE BOX



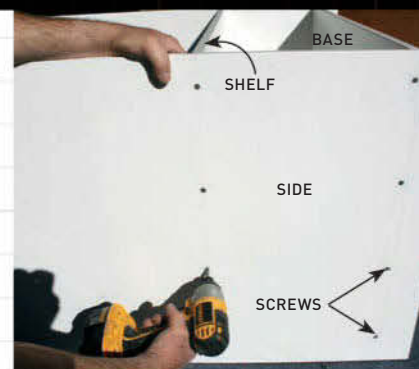
### 1 Assemble the box

Position the box base between the sides on a level surface. Set the box base 60mm up from the base edges of the sides to allow for the kickboard. Drill two equally spaced 2mm countersunk pilot holes for each side to secure the base through the sides using screws.



### 2 Mark the shelf

Position the 16mm shelf against an inside face of the box, using the short edge to mark and scribe a pair of lines at a height of 300mm and 316mm up from the base of the box. Repeat for the other side. The drawer will sit between the shelf and box base.



### 3 Secure the shelf

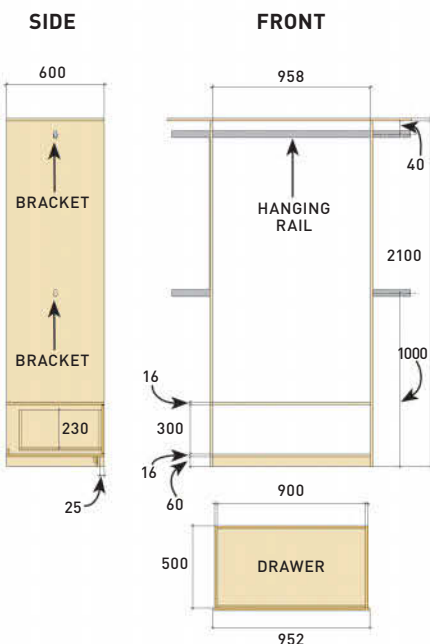
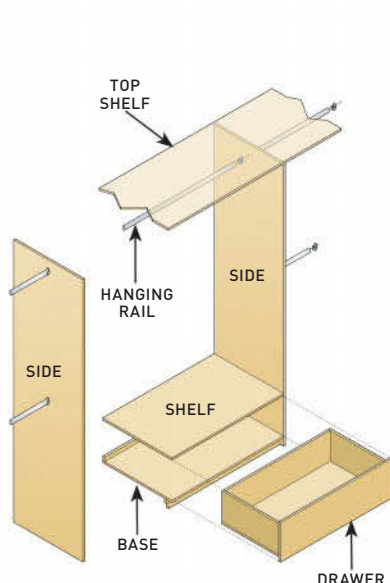
Mark and drill four equally spaced 2mm countersunk pilot holes down the centreline of the marked shelf lines. Position the shelf between the sides using the marked lines, securing the shelf with screws from the outside faces of the sides.





## HANGING BOX

measurements in mm



### CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
<b>White melamine shelving</b>		
Sides	2100 x 600 x 16	2
Base/shelf	958 x 600 x 16	2
Kickboard	958 x 60 x 16	1
Drawer face	952 x 294 x 16	1
Drawer sides	500 x 230 x 16	2
Drawer front/back	900 x 230 x 16	2
Drawer base	932 x 500 x 16	1
<b>Pine</b>		
Cleat	958 x 42 x 18	1

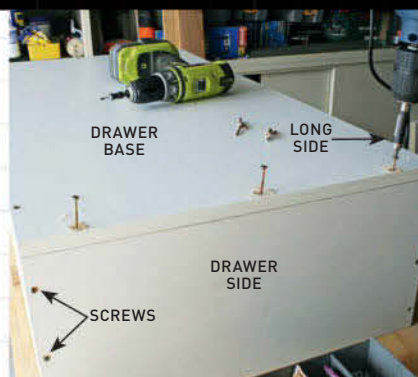
### FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Timber screws, 40mm x 8g	Box, shelf and drawer
Timber screws, 50mm x 8g	Kickboard
Timber screws, 25mm x 8g	Cleat, drawer face



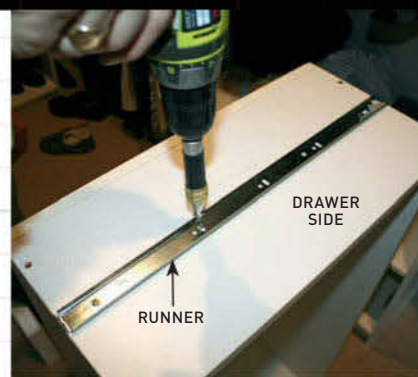
#### 4 Add the kickboard

Drill pilot holes to attach a cleat to the back of the kickboard and flush with the top edge using three screws. Set the kickboard 25mm back from the front edges and secure to the base through the cleat with four screws.



#### 5 Build the drawer

Position the drawer front and back between the sides on a level surface, drilling 2mm countersunk pilot holes 8mm from the side edges to secure. Position the base, secure one long side with screws, then use the base to square up the box and secure all sides.



#### 6 Install the runners

Mark a centreline on the drawer sides 115mm from the top and 145mm from the base on the box sides. Attach the matching runner halves to the centrelines on the drawer and box sides. Add the drawer face with screws from inside the front. ➔





1  
DAY

\$206  
COST



### Install the drawers

Designed to hold four wire baskets 240mm high x 600mm wide that slide on U-shaped metal runners, the 1200mm high drawer box was built with a back.

The actual top was made from a leftover piece of 25mm thick melamine, but 16mm will do.

An additional 2100mm high side was secured to the left of the box to support the top shelf, and to provide a fixing point for the rails.

Attach brackets for rails to the outside face of this side at 40mm from the top and 1000mm from the base.

### Materials

White melamine shelving	\$130
Pine	\$5
Timber screws	\$11
Wire baskets	\$60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$206</b>

## BUILD THE BOX



### 1 Assemble the box

Position the base 60mm up between the sides, then the top rails, securing with screws. Secure a back piece to a side, square up the box, then secure the short side. Repeat. Drill pilot holes to attach a cleat to the kickboard flush with the top edge using three screws.



### 2 Install the runners

Set the kickboard back 25mm from the front edges and secure to the base through the cleat with four screws. Draw centrelines on the inside faces of the sides for the runners with 40mm between baskets. Secure each runner 40mm back from the front edges.



### 3 Secure the box

Stand the box in position, then mark the skirting and cut where necessary using a multi-tool. Mark the wall stud locations on the back and one side of the box. Drill 2mm countersunk pilot holes and secure the box to the wall through the back and side with screws.





# WIRE DRAWERS

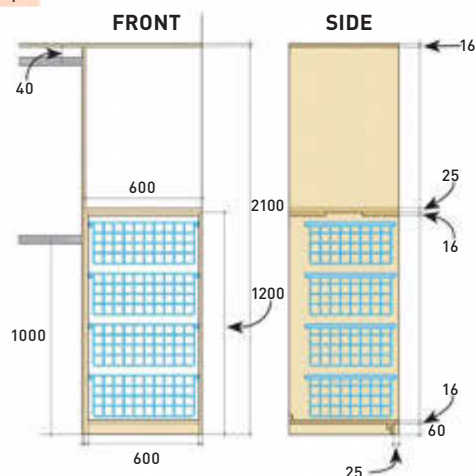
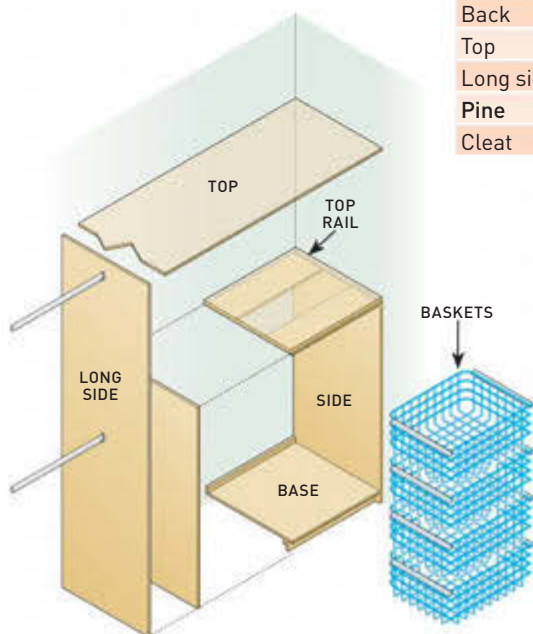
measurements in mm

## CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
<b>White melamine shelving</b>		
Sides	1200 x 600 x 16	2
Base	600 x 600 x 16	1
Top rails	600 x 100 x 16	2
Kickboard	600 x 60 x 16	1
Back	316 x 1140 x 16	2
Top	648 x 620 x 25	1
Long side	2100 x 600 x 16	1
<b>Pine</b>		
Cleat	600 x 42 x 18	1

## FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Timber screws, 40mm x 8g	Box
Timber screws, 50mm x 8g	Kickboard
Timber screws, 25mm x 8g	Top, long side and cleat



## 4 Add the top

Position the top on the top rails, then drill at least three countersunk pilot holes through each rail from underneath, securing with screws. Stand the long side in position and secure to the left side of the box with screws from the inside. 🛠️

GET THE LOOK



**Italio Oval Chrome Tube,**  
15 x 30 x 1800mm, \$30,  
from Bunnings.

**Hafele 500mm Roller Drawer**  
Runners, about \$16 each.  
hafele.co.nz



**Clever Closet Wire Basket,**  
545 x 285 x 435mm, \$15.  
handy-storage.co.nz



**White Melamine Shelving,**  
1800 x 600 x 16mm, about \$44.  
sims-distributing.co.nz



# TOWEL RAIL

It's easy to turn an old timber ladder into a towel rail and accessory holder for the bathroom.

All you need to do is lightly sand the timber and apply two coats of a clear varnish for instant rustic chic on a budget.

## Materials

- Old timber ladder
- Clear timber varnish
- Paintbrush
- Soft cleaning brush
- Sandpaper
- Sanding block
- Drop sheet
- Lint-free cloth

1 2 3



### 1 Dust the ladder

Lay a drop sheet on the floor to protect it from dust and varnish, then position the ladder on it. Clean the timber ladder with a dry soft brush, getting right into the corners to remove all traces of dirt or dust.



### 2 Sand the timber

Use a sanding block and fine grit paper to sand the ladder by hand, making sure you sand with the grain of the timber, not against it. Wipe the ladder as clean as possible with a dry, lint-free cloth.



### 3 Apply the varnish

Give the ladder a coat of clear timber varnish using a paintbrush. Let it dry overnight, then sand lightly. Apply at least one more coat, then sand again.  
**TIP** When using varnish, make sure your work space is well ventilated.





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# TERRACE TRANSFORMED

After years of being patched up and added to, this old inner-city property was ready for a new lease of life

WORDS SITA SIMONS **PICTURES** MURRAY FREDERICKS

For a sense of cohesiveness and longevity of design, it was important to ensure the new addition sat comfortably alongside the old part of the building.





Overlooking this once-dilapidated house in Sydney's Paddington would have been easy to do.

A former working class inner-city suburb of ramshackle terraces, deemed a slum for redevelopment in the '50s, it's now home to some of the most expensive real estate per square metre in Sydney.

### Cashing in on potential

It was never a grand house, but its size and position saw it bought and sold many times over the years, and with each new owner came additions and changes.

While fixer-upper projects in the area are often snapped up fast, this property didn't lend itself well to the market, says architect Georgina Wilson.

'When you entered this house, you felt confused. It had been added to and

added to in quite a random fashion and had evolved to such a degree that it was very off-putting,' says Georgina.

'It was claustrophobic and dark, and even the physical act of walking around made you feel topsy-turvy, as there was such bad fall on all the floors.

'One of the most confronting aspects was that the entire width, which was only five or six metres, was cut down the middle by a skinny additional wing tacked onto the back,' she says.

But what others missed, the new owners saw. A 175sqm block in a great position, good streets front and rear, with an attic space and a partially excavated basement meaning there was significant volume already existing.

It needed a lot of work, but the price was right, so the project began. ➤



## Fusing old and new

The owners had clear ideas about what they needed, and with a growing family, flexibility was paramount.

'What you need with toddlers is different to what you'll need with school-aged kids. I wanted to maximise the potential in every space, so it could adapt as necessary,' says Georgina.

The interior was gutted, leaving only the facade remaining.

'I had no desire to make a huge architectural statement by designing something at odds with the period.

'When you take apart one of these buildings, there's layer upon layer of materials, as people have applied a Band-Aid solution over time, so when it gets to 100 years old, there's really no way the building can take any more.'

The result is a totally reconfigured, vastly more efficient home, with the front sections respecting the heritage.

## Reworking the layout

The plans included four bedrooms, three bathrooms, multiple living areas, open-plan kitchen, study, media room and outdoor space that could be used

for entertaining and parking. The key to making it work was the basement.

'Taking the laundry off the ground floor of the house meant that I could integrate that much-needed flexibility into the configuration,' says Georgina.

'In the basement, we had to achieve a decent ceiling height, but with all the playing around with floor levels, it became cramped down there.

'The laundry is 4m long, so we just excavated a trench and still achieved the functional area needed and storage.'

The basement also provides for a media room and home office.

'The beauty of these spaces is they can be used in so many ways as the family grows,' says Georgina.

On ground level are the formal living and dining areas. There are three bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs, and the attic has been converted into a master bedroom with ensuite.

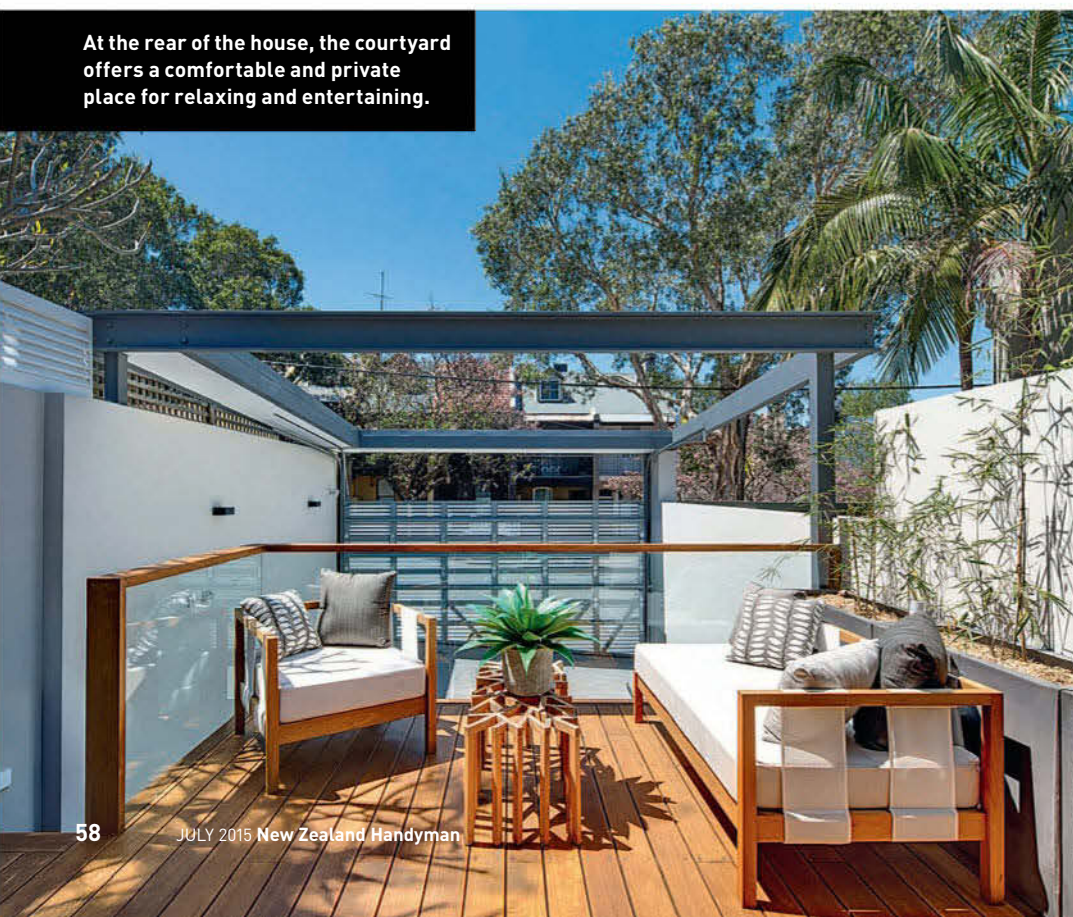
Integrated joinery is a feature in all of the bedrooms.

'It's unobtrusive, and nothing impacts negatively on the space. We gave it a cutout detail for texture and to provide more ventilation.'

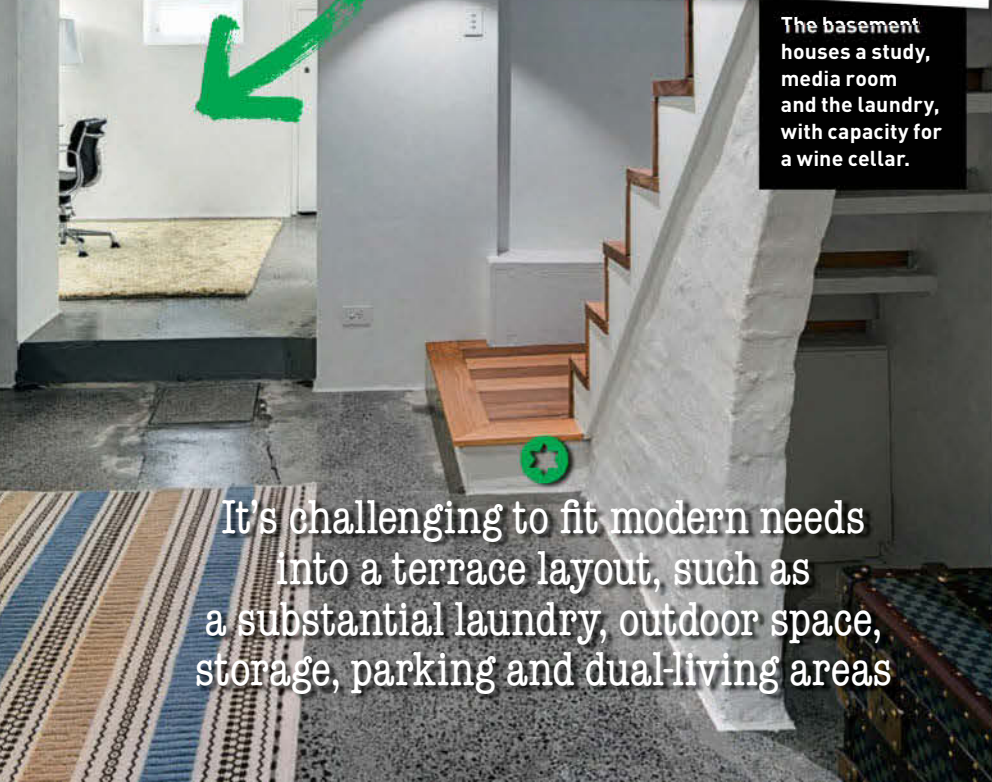


On street level, the two front rooms very much reflect the original layout and terrace style.

At the rear of the house, the courtyard offers a comfortable and private place for relaxing and entertaining.







The basement houses a study, media room and the laundry, with capacity for a wine cellar.

It's challenging to fit modern needs into a terrace layout, such as a substantial laundry, outdoor space, storage, parking and dual-living areas

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To maximise efficient use of space, the stairwell was stacked up through the levels of the building



The under-utilised attic has been transformed into a master bedroom. **ABOVE** Small but ingenious, the ensuite was left open to the stairs to keep the floorplan light and airy.







Opening onto a leafy outlook, the front bedroom features the original doors and shutters.

### Maximising the light

Facing east on a south-bearing hill, the property was dark and claustrophobic.

'This is always a challenge with terraces and I knew I'd have to work it to get some natural light through the plan of the house,' says Georgina.

She looked to borrow views throughout, so wherever you are inside, you always get an outlook.

Connecting the old part of the home with the new is a courtyard, bringing light, ventilation and a green aspect to the rooms around it.

'Another problem with terraces is the train carriage effect, like you're passing through one narrow room to the next, so we added a pop-up ceiling. It gives the roofline a different shape and draws the eye up,' she says.

The stairwell can also be a dark and dominating area. The upper part is made of a lightweight steel that is mostly transparent, allowing light to stream down from the top windows. >

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Clerestory windows were introduced into the kitchen, opening to the north to maximise on the natural light.

**BELOW** On the original part of the stairs, the layers have been revealed to subtly reference the old house and its previous lives.



To give a feeling of differentiation, the rooms in the old part of the home feature chevron pattern parquetry while the extension has timber boards

### Picking the materials

The clients had a strong preference for hardwearing and serviceable materials, so timber was an obvious choice.

There were layers of floor coverings, with carpet laid on lino and masonite, so it was stripped back to reveal the timber. It was badly damaged by white ants, which is common in a house of this age, so most had to be rebuilt.

The new floors are blackbutt with a matt burnishing oil finish.

'We experimented with this quite a bit. We didn't want anything

highly varnished, but this oil sinks in so the timber develops a natural patina, then all it needs is buffing and re-oiling from time to time,' says Georgina.

The colour choices throughout the house reflect the simplicity of the design. Steel trims are painted in a Dulux iron oxide protective coating in Bridge Grey and natural white paint is used on the walls.

Marble is used sparingly, on the kitchen island bench and highlighted in the main bathroom. 🌿





## STEAL THIS STYLE

This house is not eccentric in any way, and there's nothing fussy about it. Timber floors, seamless joinery, white walls and metal trim combine to create something beautiful out of the simplicity and service it offers.

**Georgina Wilson, architect**

PICTURE (BOTTOM) NOEL MCLAUGHLIN

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# LEATHER TIME

With basic techniques, you can turn simple straps into chic accessories

WORDS ARTEMIS GOUROS PROJECTS GEMA BENEITEZ PICTURES SUE FERRIS



## EXPERT SECRETS

Leather goes with lots of architectural and interior design styles from modern minimalist to art deco. The trick is to use leather in colours that suit the decorating style.

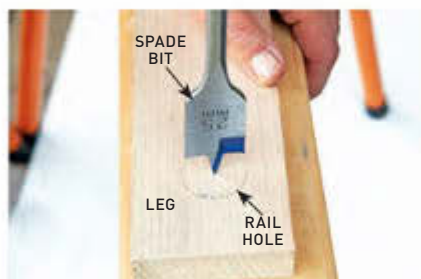
**P**opular for sofas and chairs, leather isn't used for many other home furnishings, even though it is very versatile.

These projects use leather straps and basic upholstery techniques. The straps are 1.2m belt lengths cut to size. They come in various widths, costing about \$10 for a 32mm strap.

Buy the leather and tools from suppliers such as Lapco For Leather ([lapco.co.nz](http://lapco.co.nz)). ➤

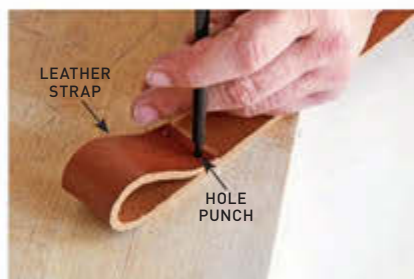
★  
Timeless and classic, real leather with a quality grain lasts for decades and looks better with age

### 1 2 3



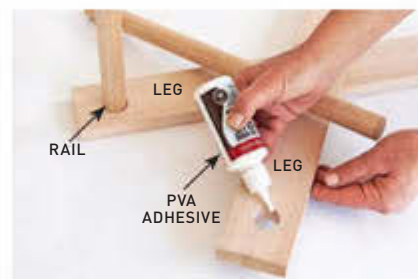
#### 1 Make the frame

Cut four legs from 65 x 18mm timber to 550mm using a jigsaw. Cut two rails from 25mm dowel to 400mm. Measure 50mm from the leg tops, trace the rails and drill holes with a 25mm spade bit. Make a cross with each pair of legs and join with a screw.



#### 2 Prepare the straps

Cut five 32mm wide leather straps to 800mm. Mark 140mm from the ends of each strap and fold over to form loops. Punch a 2mm hole near each edge. Sew through both layers with an upholstery needle and waxed thread. Make two loops to fit around the legs.



#### 3 Assemble the seat

Insert the rails in the holes, assemble the frame and check for square. Take it apart, apply PVA adhesive to one pair of legs and insert the rails. Slide the straps onto the rails and secure the other pair of legs with adhesive. Close the legs and slide on the loops.



# MAG RACK

DECORATE

## DESIGN TIP

Use leather for accent pieces like armchairs or ottomans, teaming it with timber and rich fabrics for warmth.



For portability and easy storage, this simple timber and leather magazine rack folds up.



# BENCH SEAT



Once you get the hang of working with leather, you can branch out and weave a floor rug

1 2 3



## 1 Cut the straps

Position a 38mm wide and 1200mm long leather strap along the bench and mark to length with enough left over to wrap over and under the frame. Repeat with a 32mm strap across the bench. Cut the number of straps needed to length using a utility knife.



## 2 Secure the straps

Lay the long straps evenly spaced on a flat surface and position a short side of the bench frame on top near the strap ends. Take each strap over the frame, securing with an upholstery nail using a hammer. Pull the straps taut and secure to the other short side.



## 3 Weave the seat

Lay the cross straps evenly spaced on a flat level surface and position the long side of the bench frame on top near the strap ends. Secure each cross strap to the frame with an upholstery nail, then weave them through the long straps and secure to the other side.





A bench at the end of a bed is a convenient piece of furniture in a bedroom.

Buying a long bench or ottoman can get expensive, but you can easily make your own.

To get designer style on a shoestring, simply take the top off a timber stool and replace it with a woven leather seat. Or build a budget timber coffee table without the top.

Use the leather bench to hold cushions or a throw rug, or for books and a breakfast tray for when you want to read in bed. ➤

## BUDGET TIP

Leather straps are more economical than buying upholstery hides, which come in pieces of several square metres.



Customise a timber bench with a woven leather seat in a colour to suit your bedroom.



# PLANT HOLDER

## DIY TIP

Use Blu-Tack to hold the leather straps in position on the pot while you're making the holder and attaching rivets.



Create a leather holder for a large house plant and it will double as a decorative element and provide an easy way to move a big pot around.

This pot is 290mm in diameter and 260mm high, but the holder can be adapted to suit a pot of any size, as it is just made from 32mm wide straps cut to length.

The holder is assembled around the pot and the straps secured using 3mm rivets.

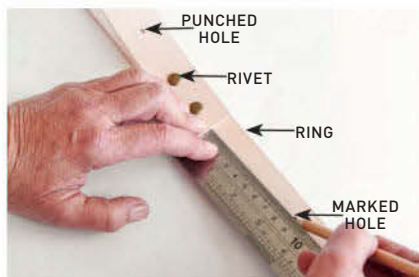
What looks like two handles is actually one long strap that's woven and looped around the pot.



Make a holder for a big pot so you can move it around to use as a decorative do or stop.

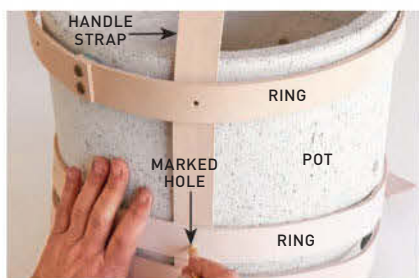


1 2 3



### 1 Make the rings

Punch two holes 2mm from the ends of three 1000mm leather straps, securing with leather rivets. Press the rings flat with the rivets centred. Mark and punch holes through both layers 85mm from either side of the overlap. Slide the rings on the pot base.



### 2 Attach the handle

Slide a 1200mm strap under the rings, mark the holes and punch, securing with rivets. Take the handle strap under the pot to the corresponding ring holes and repeat. Loop and take it back under the rings and pot, then up the other side, leaving a 700mm tail.




### 3 Secure the braces

On each ring, and on either side of the pot, mark and punch holes centred between the handles. Slide a 200mm strap under the rings, then mark and punch the holes, attaching each brace with rivets. Secure the handle tail over the start point. 🟢



The handle of the pot holder has a tail cut like a ribbon end using a utility blade





The grand architecture of the house is reflected in the formal gardens, making a seamless connection between the two.

FOR YOUR INSPIRATION ▶▶

# BACK IN TIME

A sprawling '60s garden at odds with the stately Victorian era home gets a formal makeover

WORDS SITA SIMONS



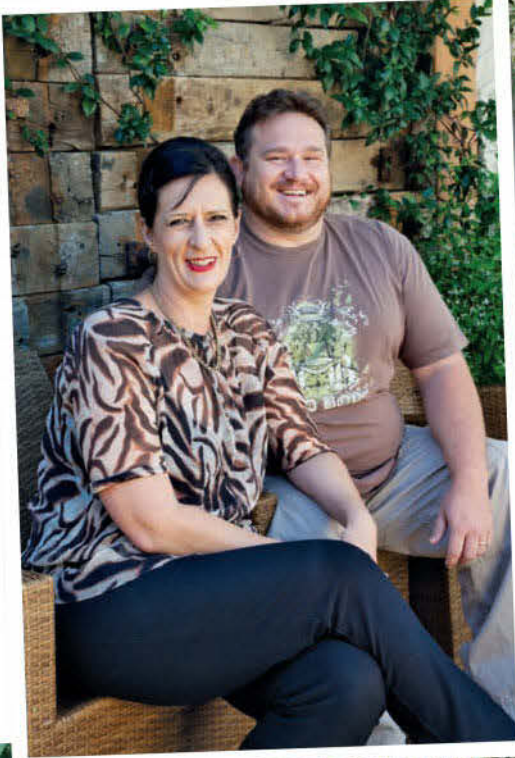
The first time they laid eyes on the stately home that would become their restoration project for the next three years, it was love at first sight for Adri and Wayne Jeffers.

Over time, the property had become neglected and was in need of both structural and cosmetic work, but the charm was undeniable.

Set against The Berea, a ridge overlooking Durban in South Africa, the house dates from the late 1800s.

According to local folklore, it belonged to a ship's captain who displayed his love for sailing by, among other things, building circular steps in the shape of a ship's bow.

He also planted giant palm trees so he would be able to pick out his house as he approached Durban harbour. Those same three palms are now nearly 12m high. ➤



Works of art are essential elements for this style of garden. **LEFT** Owners Adri and Wayne felt this former beauty deserved a facelift.



A formal garden with tidy borders and edging plants, plus lots of seating and ornamental features, was the vision.





Trees provide much-needed shade on hot and humid days.

**LEFT** This wicker chair sculpture references the Victorian fondness for multiple seating areas.

### Clash of styles

A keen history buff, Adri got straight to work researching the period and sourcing materials to honour the original period of the home.

'It was a real passion project for me. I found it incredibly rewarding to be reinstating features and giving it new life,' says Adri.

'I was so overtaken with the house itself that I didn't notice that slightly off-kilter feeling in the grounds at first.'

It took a step back to see that the garden was very much at odds with the house. Set against the dominating colonial architecture, it was very '60s in look, with plenty of pebblecreting and hanging arrangements.

'There were lots of rockeries, and platformed areas branching off the steep slope. The foliage was very glossy and the colour scheme was quite bright and strong,' she says.

'It was haphazard and sprawling, and it just felt all wrong.' ➤







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### From casual to formal

Adri quickly came to realise that getting the garden back in harmony with the house was going to be essential for the overall look and feel.

It was clear that a formal garden would sit most comfortably, featuring strong lines and forming a mirroring symmetry with the architecture.

A typical Victorian garden would feature a front and back lawn, neat borders and edging plants, plus lots of ornamentation, such as paths, urns, statues, sundials, birdbaths and seating.

Benches were made of stone or cast iron and were often ornate, and placed at the ends of walkways. Gazebos formed grand focal points.

While the basis is symmetrical and neat, the ornaments and preference for lots of exotic flowers was a reference to the strong romanticism of the era.

Work began with a local landscape gardener, briefed with the task of making the garden appear as though it had been there all along. ➤



Using foliage from the garden instead of flowers for arrangements brings the outdoors in.





**ABOVE** This comfortable outdoor setting complements the elegance of the house's interior. **RIGHT** Seating around an open fire makes good use of the space year-round.



The courtyard behind the house has a rural French feel, featuring raw cement walls with bull-nose edges, Champagne-coloured gravel and rusty pots.





### The renovation vision

As the garden sloped steeply, a wall was built for a platform, and two sweeping flights of stairs lead up to the house.

Sandstone tiles were used to revamp the pool area and a statue by Marieke Prinsloo-Rowe makes a stunning focal point. The walls have a nice weathered look and a clipped climbing fig softens the appearance of the concrete.

The front garden combines formal elements such as symmetry and box hedges of *Murraya exotica* with bamboo palms, aloes and elephant ears.

Adri envisaged a formal Victorian garden with box hedges and roses. But when roses didn't thrive in the Durban climate, she had to broaden her ideas.

'I learned that a formal garden is a very flexible thing. Within the basic parameters of keeping symmetry and lines, the planting can be whatever suits the area and your tastes. I found this really liberating,' says Adri.

'The main difference is a controlled approach, clipping and trimming and confining the growth, rather than letting nature take its course.' 🌿

Two sweeping flights of stairs on either side of the swimming pool lead the way to the house.

 Designing your dream garden?  
Get inspired at [pinterest.com/DIYhandyman](https://pinterest.com/DIYhandyman)

## STEAL THIS STYLE

Formal gardens don't go out of style, they just evolve. It's about sticking to the basics. Creating clean lines and symmetry, and applying a modest colour palette, are the best starting points for this look.

**Jarret Clynick, landscape expert**





# TOOL ORDER

Banish clutter by organising your workshop with these storage ideas

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

**N**o matter whether you own enough tools to fill a shed or just a few for maintaining a bicycle, you need a space to store them that is easily accessible and also very secure.

This workshop offered neither. It was badly lit, with untidy work surfaces and clutter everywhere.

We gave it a complete overhaul, using off-the-shelf solutions to store tools and equipment neatly and safely.



## EXPERT SECRETS

Never put your tools away wet, use a dry cloth to give them a quick wipe down before storing.

Create order from chaos with a combination of shelving and drawers

## ADAM'S PLAN

- **RIP** out fitted work surfaces and shelves, and remove freestanding bookshelves and storage cabinets.
- **CLEAN** the beams and the ceiling, then paint using Dulux Precoat Primerlock as an undercoat.
- **APPLY** a coat of hard-wearing Dulux Weathershield Low Sheen in Vivid White. White is ideal, as it reflects more light.
- **HAVE** an electrician replace the ineffective hooded light with a brighter, bunker-style light fitting.
- **TIDY** the workshop by adding new shelving, drawers and a workbench.
- **ATTACH** a clamp-lamp to the metal pegboard to provide more work light.
- **ADD** power with an HPM PlugBoss Heavy Duty Five-outlet Powerboard with inbuilt surge guard. ➤



Before





## After

With minimal effort, the space is sleek and well lit with plenty of storage.



The Ultimate Garage Workbench with metal pegboard back, \$489, fits by the wall, providing a well-ordered work space (harknessyoung.co.nz).

## BUDGET TIP

Save money in the long run by investing in readymade storage solutions and looking after your tools.



# SPACE SAVERS



Keep all your essential gear for DIYing in the stackable and lockable Kinchrome Contour Seven-drawer Tool Trolley, \$599, and Eight-drawer Tool Chest, \$399 ([kinchrome.com.au](http://kinchrome.com.au)).



We added a Handy Storage Boltless Four-shelf Kit, \$79, for a quick and easy storage solution. Each shelf boasts a 150kg capacity ([handy-storage.co.nz](http://handy-storage.co.nz)).

## GET THE LOOK

Orbit Bulk Head Oval Grill Bunker Light, \$8. [cdb.co.nz](http://cdb.co.nz)



Ultimate Two-door Under Bench Tool Chest, \$349. [harknessyoung.co.nz](http://harknessyoung.co.nz)



Supatool Five-drawer Tool Trolley, \$249, from Bunnings.



## TIDY TIP

A pegboard is a handy way to use vertical space and keep hand tools within reach of your workbench.

## CHARGING STATION

An easy way to restore and maintain order in a workshop is to streamline your power tools.

Tools with different batteries all require separate chargers, which can make your workbench look as though it's covered in electrical spaghetti.

Enter the Ryobi One+ 18V six-port charger. With the capacity to charge up to six batteries at once, this compact unit can be wall mounted or stored on a shelf or benchtop.

Here, it's hanging on the pegboard attached to the back of the workbench. ➤



Stanley FatMax 4 in 1  
Folding Work Station, \$199.  
[stanleytools.co.nz](http://stanleytools.co.nz)



Ryobi One+ 18V Six-port  
Dual-Chem Battery Charger,  
about \$149. [ryobi.co.nz](http://ryobi.co.nz)



Thunderbox 900 x 550 x 400mm  
Blue Cargo Case, \$229,  
from Bunnings.





### Keep tools secure

Locking your tools away securely is about more than just preventing damage or theft.

Many tools can also be dangerous in the hands of the unskilled or children. Razor-sharp woodworking chisels or battery-powered tools can do serious harm to the unwary.

At home or on the go, the best way to secure your tools and equipment is often with a simple padlock.

With this range from Master Lock you'll be able to keep just about any object safe ([mayohardware.co.nz](http://mayohardware.co.nz)).

## SAFETY TIP

Locking up ladders can protect your home from intruders. An unsecured ladder could allow easy access to high areas.

Combine the 1.8m x 10mm Looped End Cable, \$34, with the Excell Padlock, \$39.



Great for securing anything from cycles to mowers, the 1.8m x 10mm Cable Locks, about \$40 for three, will connect together to create a longer lock when needed.



To save you worrying about your keys, the 1.5m x 10mm Combination Locking Cable, about \$44, is easy to use, whether securing a bike at home or when you're out.



The Python 1.8m x 10mm Adjustable Cable Lock, about \$58, is ideal for securing oddly shaped equipment, as it has a fully adjustable locking mechanism.



Get more storage ideas

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## GARDEN SHED

Not everyone is lucky enough to have extra room in the garage or under the house for tools and equipment. The simple solution is to add a shed.

New Zealand-made Duratuf Sentry sheds come in many sizes with timber top and bottom plates for added rigidity and strength (riverleagroup.co.nz).



Duratuf sheds have a padbolt, so they can be easily secured with a padlock



① The Locker shed, from \$349, is ideal if you only have a small garden or courtyard space and you need secure storage. At only 680mm deep, yet 1.52m wide x 1.8m high, it's ideal for a narrow passage.

② If you need a shed with more space but with a slim profile, try the single-door front-opening Skillion, from \$519. It is 2.02m wide x 1.02m deep x 1.925m high.

③ The Lean-to, from \$549, is a good option if you have a large yard and lots of tools. At 2.02m wide x 1.52mm deep x 1.925m tall, the extra space means you can add easily accessible shelves at either end. 🌱



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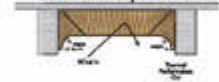
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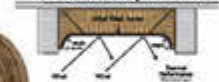
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# What's on this July

## How sustainable is your home?

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Don't forget World Environment Day Friday 5th June.

SHERI,  
TEAM MEMBER



## D.I.Y. workshops

Our weekend D.I.Y. workshops are packed with hints and tips that will help make your jobs easier and look more professional. Workshops cover a wide range of topics from painting to gardening and everything in between and are suitable for any level.

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## Kids' D.I.Y. workshops\*

Keep little hands busy on the weekend with our special kids' craft workshops. They'll get a real buzz out of learning to make all sorts of things and will enjoy taking their projects home.

**Workshops 10am  
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\*Bookings essential. Contact your local store for details.



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## DESIGN TIP

Use bromeliads to decorate bare fences, walls or screens to add colour and an air of mystery to the garden.

# Grow your own bromeliads

Beautiful, dramatic and versatile, these easy-to-grow plants can be used in many fun and interesting ways

WORDS AND PICTURES CHERYL MADDOCKS

**D**efinitely not prima donnas of the plant world, bromeliads are extremely tough and will reward you with continuous colour and form.

And as most are epiphytes, growing harmlessly on other plants, they're also waterwise, which is a requirement that most gardeners look for in a plant.

In the wild, epiphytic bromeliads often grow on rocks or in tree canopies, attached to a trunk or branch. Here, they eke out their existence, collecting whatever water or organic matter happens to fall onto their leaves.



## PLANT IN BEDS

While bromeliads are epiphytes, they can still be grown in the ground.

✚ **SOIL** needs to be free-draining or they'll rot at the base. You can correct drainage by adding orchid potting mix to raise the soil's height. Or, plant in a pot with the rim resting above the ground.

✚ **POSITION** in semi-shade or full shade. But as they come from a wide range of environments, from deep shade to blazing sun, you'll find a species suitable for most situations. Varieties such as *Neoregelia*, *Tillandsia*, *Billbergia*, *Dyckia* and *Aechmea* will tolerate full sun.

✚ **PLANT** at the same height as in the pot. Water lightly and top up the water in the cup or vase.

✚ **WATER** when the soil's surface has nearly dried out. In winter, water every 2-3 weeks. Keep the cup full, but flush it often so the water doesn't stagnate.

✚ **FEED** with a water-soluble fertiliser at quarter strength every six months. Apply it at the plant base, not in the cup.



Cheryl

## EXPERT SECRETS

In cool climates, most bromeliads will survive in pots under cover in winter. But better still, take them indoors to provide a much-needed colourful lift.

Overwatering causes more bromeliads to die than underwatering.

## How they hydrate

To collect rain and organic matter, the leaves of many species combine to form a vase or tank-like structure that holds a reservoir of water.

The leaves absorb the water and nutrients directly, and the roots of most species do little more than anchor the plant onto the tree. ➤



## PLANT IN POTS

Bromeliads look striking planted in either pots or hanging baskets on balconies and in courtyards.

When they're grouped in pots of varying heights, they make permanent eye-catching colour statements.

Mix and match different colours in the one pot or try the giant bromeliad *Alcantarea imperialis* for star status.

✚ **POTTING MIX** should be light and open. Use a combination of half all-purpose mix and half orchid mix.

✚ **PLANT** so the mix comes 10-20mm above the base of the plant. If planted too deeply, the root and vase will rot.

✚ **WATER** to keep the vase full, but don't overwater, and flush the vase often to prevent water stagnation.

The flower spike of *Alcantarea imperialis* grows up to 3.5m high.



### Weighty matter

Bear in mind that bromeliads can be top heavy, especially the vase types, when their cup and surrounding bases are full of water. Choose heavy pots in concrete or clay so they don't get blown over. Or, plant in a plastic pot and use a heavy pot as a sleeve.

### CHERYL'S PICKS



Daltons Premium Orchid Mix, \$7 for 15L.  
daltons.co.nz



Yates Thrive All Purpose Soluble Fertiliser, about \$11 for 500g.  
yates.co.nz

PICTURE (CENTRE) THINKSTOCK



## GROW TIP

A new pup will attach itself more easily than a mature bromeliad when mounted on a tree or stump.

## RAISE ON TREES

You can attach bromeliads to tree trunks or branches, old tree stumps, tall tree ferns and palm trunks. Large plants can be placed in the forks of trees or on stumps in beds.

✚ **WRAP** the root system lightly in sphagnum moss or coconut fibre, fasten with plastic-coated wire or a soft tie, then attach to the tree trunk and forks. Strips of pantyhose work well.

✚ **ATTACH** to tree fern trunks by making a hole in the trunk and placing the base of the plant in the hole. Secure with a soft tie until the plant has taken root.

✚ **WEDGE** bromeliads into palm pockets on the trunk or fasten as for tree trunks.

✚ **WATER** over the foliage and at the plant base 2-3 times weekly in hot weather and at least weekly in winter.

## HOW TO PROPAGATE

After a plant has flowered, it will slowly die in a year or two, but will replace itself with offsets, known as pups.

These arise from the base or from in between the leaves of the mother plant. They can easily be detached and potted, mounted on a tree or planted in a garden bed.

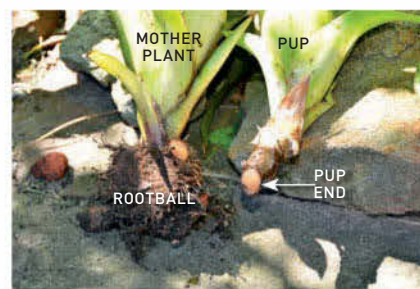
**1** **2** **3**



**1 LOOSEN THE SOIL** around the rootball using a trowel to remove the mother plant and pup from the soil.



**2 REMOVE THE PUP** using clean, sharp secateurs, carefully cutting as close to the mother plant as possible.



**3 DIP THE END** of the pup in hormone rooting powder, then replant the pup, firming down the soil around it. ➤



## CARING FOR AIR PLANTS

These bromeliads survive in the wild by attaching themselves to trees, desert cacti, cliff faces and rocks.

Their common name, air plant, gives a fairly accurate description of how they live. They don't need soil and require very little water.

Air plants are xerophytic epiphytes and absorb moisture and nutrients through the scale coating on their leaves. While they require very little attention, good air movement around the plants is essential.

- ✦ **GLUE** tillandsias to their host using Selleys Liquid Nails or Selleys All Clear Sealant.
- ✦ **TIE** a tillandsia to its host using plastic-covered wire, string, strips of pantyhose or budding tape.
- ✦ **PROTECT** tillandsias from frosts.
- ✦ **USE** a mist spray only, spraying fortnightly in the mornings during winter and at least three times a week after the heat of the day in summer.
- ✦ **FEED** in spring and autumn using a half strength or weaker solution of liquid fertiliser when misting.

### Did you know?

The pineapple (*Ananas comosus*), is a bromeliad. It was grown in Europe in the 1600s by the wealthy, who could afford to build heated greenhouses. You can now grow your own. Simply select a ripe pineapple, cut off the top leaf section and flesh until you're left with a stub, then remove the lower leaves. Allow it to dry for a day, then plant the stub in a bed or pot. You'll be picking your own in a couple of years.

Attach air plants to birdcages, driftwood, logs and picture frames. Have fun and let your imagination run wild





Spanish moss cascades in long silvery strands, resembling a waterfall.

## DIY TIP

Make a living curtain by attaching air plants to fishing wire, then hang as a feature or use to hide something unsightly.

## CREATE A FEATURE

Make a hanging ball of *Tillandsia aeranthos*. Commonly called carnation of the sky, its grey-green leaves do have a carnation-like appearance. Use bird or chicken wire to form the ball and attach the plants to the wire.

Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) differs in appearance from other tillandsias in that its thin leaves grow at intervals along a slender stem that can become metres long.

It's striking as a feature in itself, hung from trees or used as a curtain to screen a view or provide privacy.

Or, you can turn a stand into a ball of colour by covering it with Spanish moss and carnation of the sky.

1 2



1 **WIND WIRE MESH** around the base of a stand, then form a ball shape extending above the top.



2 **ATTACH A MIX** of carnation of the sky and Spanish moss to the wire frame with soft ties for a striking display. 🌿





## DESIGN TIP

Lavender, box, murraya and rosemary all grow easily from semi-ripe cuttings, so use them to create a beautiful hedge.

# Plants for free

Take the time to raise cuttings and you'll end up with a garden full of home-grown budget beauties

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS



Stem cuttings are the most common and are divided into three groups called softwood, semi-ripe and hardwood cuttings

Growing from cuttings won't give you a garden overnight, but you will get plants for free. And you'll have the satisfaction of looking at plants you've learnt how to propagate yourself.

Plus it's a fun activity and you can even get the children involved.

When you grow from a cutting, you're creating a clone of the parent plant. So, if you choose a plant that has great leaf or flower colour, you're guaranteed the cutting-grown plant will have the same characteristics.

The correct propagating medium influences how many cuttings will root and the quality of the root system. Use a seed-raising mix or make your own with a mix of two parts river sand and one part compost.

Dip the cuttings in hormone gel or cutting powder to encourage the production and even distribution of roots. They help cuttings to form a callus and shorten the time taken by the plant to root. ➤

## CHERYL'S PICKS



Yates Clonex Rooting Hormone Gel, \$20.  
[yates.co.nz](http://yates.co.nz)



Romberg Marco Propagator, \$20.  
[tuigarden.co.nz](http://tuigarden.co.nz)



Daltons Premium Seed Mix, \$5 for 5L.  
[daltons.co.nz](http://daltons.co.nz)

Swap cuttings with other gardeners to get new plants for free.





## SEMI-RIPE CUTTINGS

To propagate evergreens, climbers, shrubs and conifers, take semi-ripe cuttings from the top or outer growth just after a flush of growth.


The stems should be partially mature and firm at the base while comparatively soft at the tops.

**TRY** Abelia, azalea, bay, begonia, camellia, clematis, fuchsia, gardenia, grevillea, hibiscus, lavender, eugenia, murraya, New Guinea impatiens, pelargonium, rose and westringia.



Now is the time to take cuttings of ripe wood that has hardened off after a growth spurt

Plant cuttings in a pot filled with well-drained propagating mix.



Remove the lower leaves and dip cuttings in hormone powder.

Use clean secateurs to take cuttings from healthy plants only.

PICTURES (EAP LEFT) ARTEMIS GOUROS (LEFT, TOP) ALAMY





### Some like it hot

Both softwood and semi-ripe cuttings need humidity to root.

A mini greenhouse is ideal for providing humid conditions. If it's too small for long cuttings, you can make your own.

Use a polystyrene or wooden box and cover it with a sheet of glass.

For potted cuttings, add small bamboo stakes around the pot edge and cover it with clear plastic, making sure it doesn't touch the plants.

Or you can cut large, clear soft drink bottles in half and up-end these over the potted cuttings.



## SOFTWOOD CUTTINGS

Many herbaceous perennials and shrubs can be started from cuttings taken when the plant is in active growth in spring to early summer.

These are called softwood cuttings because the material is soft and new.

Take the cuttings from 75-100mm terminal growths, and remove the lower leaves but keep the upper, then pot up in the same way as semi-ripe cuttings.

Many softwood cuttings, such as coleus, begonia and pelargonium, can grow roots in a glass of water. When the roots have formed, pot up the cuttings or plant out.



### DIY TIP

To create a mini greenhouse, cut the base off a clear plastic drink bottle and use it to cover cuttings.

### Taking root

Keep the mix moist but not wet, then in 6-8 weeks, gently pull the stems to test if the cuttings have taken root. If they feel firm, then roots have formed.

Transplant rooted cuttings into individual pots filled with quality potting mix and let them grow until they are large enough to go in the ground. >



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## HARDWOOD CUTTINGS

Deciduous shrubs and climbers grow easily from hardwood cuttings that are taken during winter.

Select only strong, healthy and ripened stems, measuring at least 150-200mm long and about the thickness of your little finger.

Make an angled top cut just above a node, and a horizontal cut below a pair of nodes at the stem base.

The angled cut prevents you from mistakenly planting the cuttings upside down and, when planted, lets water run off the cutting.

Plant hardwood cuttings at a depth of a third to half their length in a container filled with propagating mix to ensure good drainage.

Position in a well-lit spot and don't let them dry out, and roots will form in 8-10 weeks. When new spring growth appears, transplant into larger pots in good-quality potting mix.

**TRY** Abelia, crepe myrtle, deutzia, forsythia, frangipani, mock orange, lemon-scented verbenas, hydrangea, pomegranate, tibouchina, wisteria and weigela. ➤



A node is where the leaf meets the stem of the plant

### Cut and store

Take cuttings in the early morning when plant tissues contain the most water, and always work in a shady spot so they don't dry out. If there is a delay in potting up cuttings, store them in a plastic bag in the fridge.

### GROW TIP

Plant hardwood cuttings in trenches in beds. Once they take root, transplant them to their permanent positions.



Taken from dormant plants, hardwood cuttings shouldn't dry out.



## INSTANT FRANGIPANI

You can get immediate results with large cuttings of frangipani, as even 2m long branches will grow roots.

Take the cutting in late winter when the tree has lost all of its leaves.

Select the branch you want and remove it from the tree. The cutting will ooze a milky sap, so wear gloves and safety glasses and keep it away from children and animals.

Lay the cutting outdoors on concrete or paving for several weeks to allow the wound to heal and eventually form a callus.

The cutting can then be planted in a pot or straight into the ground in the spot where you want it to grow.

**TIP** Larger cuttings will need a stake to hold them in position. 🌱

Grow a fragrant frangipani from a cutting taken in late winter.



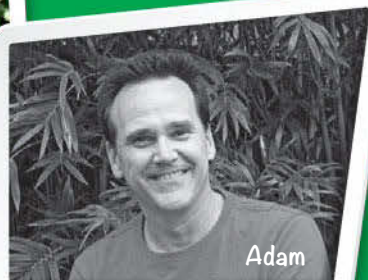
### BUDGET TIP

Take more cuttings than you need to allow for the odd failure. Give away extra plants or sell at a market or school fete.

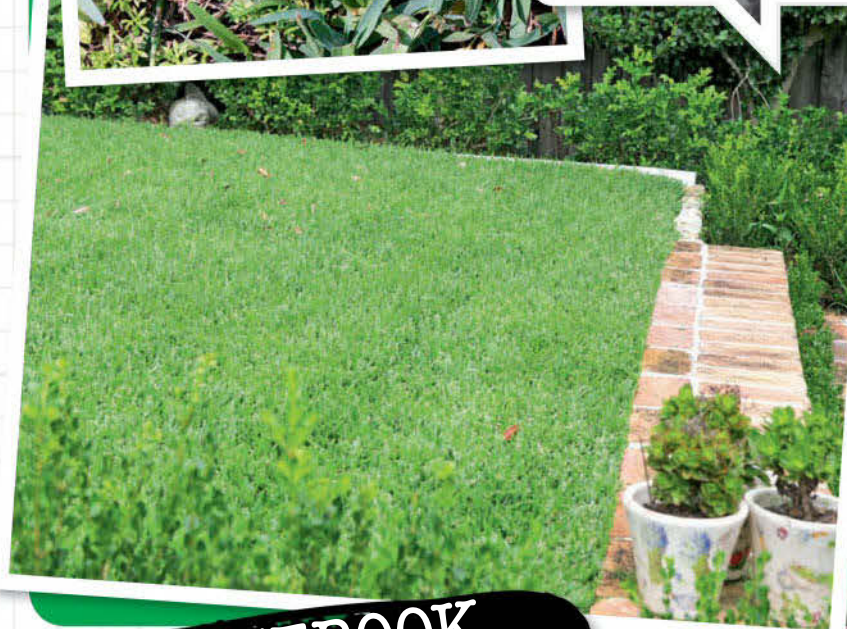


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Adam Woodhams



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# KALE & HEARTY

Grow the cool-weather green that keeps on giving

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

**K**nown as a superfood and a nutritional powerhouse, kale is often referred to as the queen of greens.

It deserves the accolades, as kale contains anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, anti-cancer and detox-supporting nutrients.

These include sulforaphane, which may help prevent cancer, vitamins A, C and K, folic acid, iron, potassium and calcium. Kale is also high in fibre.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Originally from the Mediterranean, where it was also known as borecole, kale is thought to have been one of the first types of brassicas to be cultivated, and was a staple food during the Middle Ages.



## HEALTH TIP

Among its other qualities, kale is said to act as an anti-inflammatory because it contains omega-3 fatty acids.



While kale belongs to the Brassicaceae family, which includes broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and Asian greens, kale doesn't form a head like cabbage.

It is a pick-and-come-again vegetable, and regular picking ensures a long cropping period. You'll be harvesting leaves about 6-8 weeks after sowing seeds.

There are several different varieties, including *cavolo nero*, also called Tuscan black kale and Italian black cabbage.

Other types of kale have serrated leaves, curly leaves or even purple leaves. ➤



## HOW TO GROW

The best time to plant kale seedlings is during winter, or you can sow seeds from late summer until early winter.

Kale will grow well in a sunny position in garden beds or pots.

The soil needs to be well-drained and you should dig in some manure or compost before planting.

Water the plants regularly and mulch with lucerne hay or pea straw. Feed monthly with a soluble plant food.



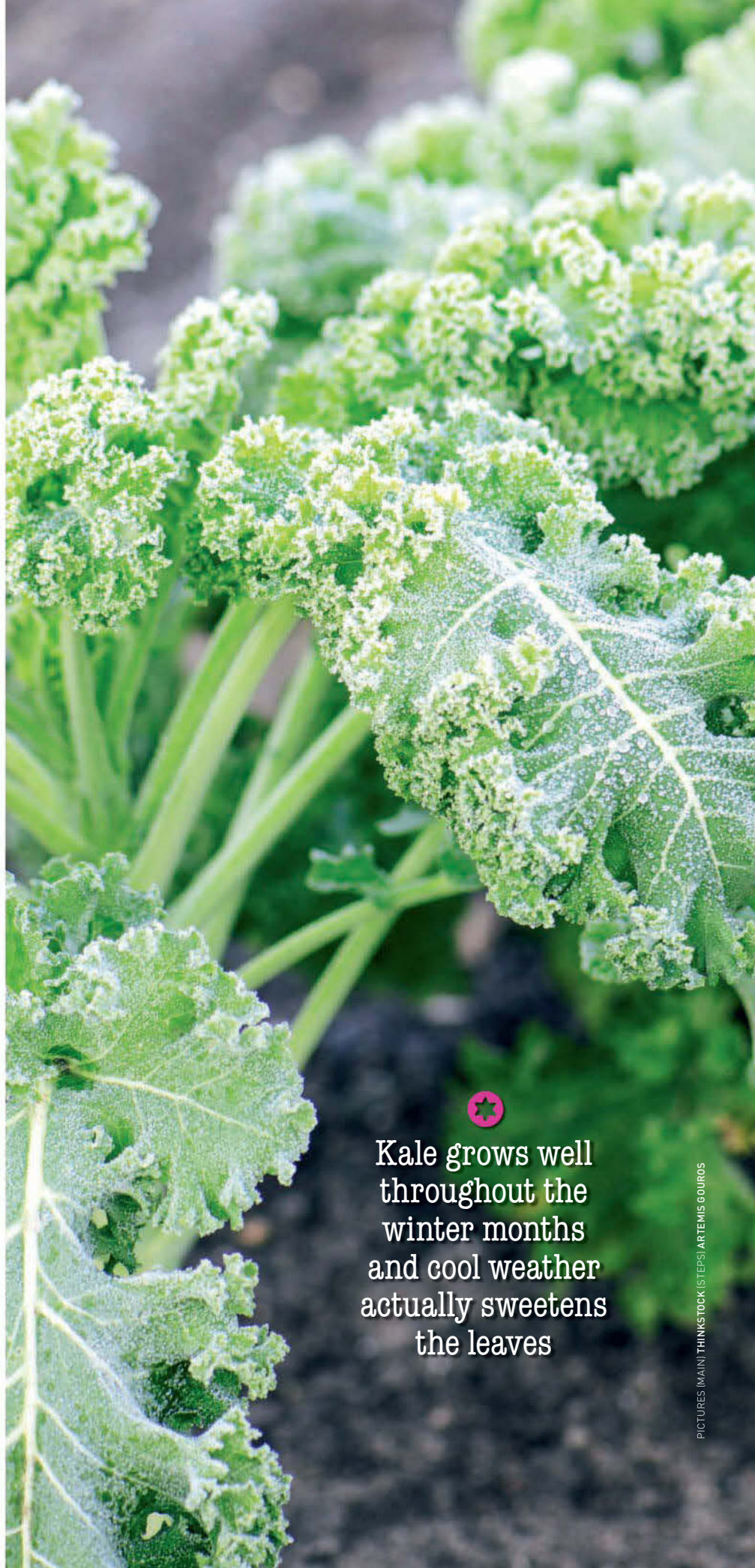
**1 ENSURE** the garden bed is damp and then gently ease the seedling out of the punnet, taking care you don't damage the roots.



**2 USE** a trowel to dig a hole 70-100mm deep and wide enough for the seedling. Position the seedling in the hole and firm down the soil around it.



**3 MAKE** a small depression in the soil around each seedling to direct water straight to the roots, then water using a watering can.



★  
Kale grows well throughout the winter months and cool weather actually sweetens the leaves



## PEST TIP

Protect young plants from snails and slugs using pellets, and sprinkle with Derris Dust to protect the leaves from caterpillars.



## SOW SEEDS

**1 MAKE** sure the garden bed is damp and free from weeds, lumps and stones.

Create a depression with a trowel at the correct depth for sowing the seeds. This is indicated on the packet.

**2 SPRINKLE** the seeds lightly into the depression and cover with soil, before lightly firming down the soil after sowing.

**3 KEEP** the soil damp until the seeds have germinated after about 7-10 days. Thin out the seedlings when they're about 75mm tall to 300-450mm apart. ➤

## TEST THE SOIL

You'll need a slightly alkaline soil with a pH above 6.5 for growing kale. Add soluble lime or dolomite before planting, if necessary.





## IN THE KITCHEN

- ◆ **USE** kale in vegetarian lasagne instead of silverbeet or spinach.
- ◆ **BRAISE** it with garlic and olive oil and toss it through pasta. Serve with parmesan cheese.
- ◆ **ADD** to soups, casseroles and stews.
- ◆ **BOIL** or steam kale and squeeze lemon juice over the top for a side dish.
- ◆ **MAKE** a risotto using kale, pine nuts and cheese.
- ◆ **ADD** the leaves to smoothies for a powerhouse drink.
- ◆ **BRAISE** kale and add to a frittata with capsicum, tomatoes and feta.



Share your kale recipe  
Post a pic on Instagram and tag it #HMCookIt



### Make kale chips

Remove the thick stems, tear leaves into medium-sized pieces, coat with olive oil and put them on baking paper. Cook in a medium oven for about 15-20 minutes or until they turn dry and crispy.

Add salt to the cooked chips, if you like. Children love them.





Serves 4

## Kale pasta

If you're gluten or wheat intolerant, use quinoa flour. It may take longer in the processor for the dough to be ready and you may need to add more flour.

### Ingredients

8-10 stalks Tuscan black kale  
500g 00 super-fine Italian flour  
5 extra large eggs

### Method

- 1 Wash the kale thoroughly, then remove and discard the entire stalk. Plunge the leaves into a pan of boiling water and cook for 3-4 minutes.
- 2 Drain and refresh under cold water, then drain again and squeeze out as much of the moisture as you can, then finely chop.
- 3 Put the kale into the bowl of a food processor and process to chop again. Add the flour and process until the flour and kale are combined and the kale is fine.

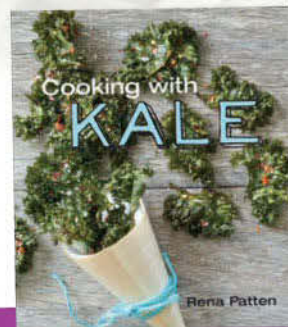
- 4 Add the eggs and continue processing until the dough comes together to form a ball. Pulse a few times. You may need to divide the dough once it comes together and process it in batches to ensure the kale is incorporated and finely chopped into the dough.

- 5 Tip the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead with your hands for 2-3 minutes.

- 6 Cover the dough in plastic wrap and put it in the fridge for 1 hour before rolling out and shaping in a pasta machine. Or, you can roll out the dough into a thin rectangle, tidy the edges and cut it into thin strands for spaghetti or wider ones for fettuccine.

- 7 Cook the pasta in a large saucepan of salted boiling water to your preferred al dente stage, then serve.

**TIP** If the dough is sticky, just add a little more flour when processing.



### Green cuisine

Featuring more than 70 recipes and beautiful accompanying photographs, Rena Patten's *Cooking With Kale* (\$40, New Holland) is the ideal introduction to the popular leafy green superfood.

This book includes tasty recipes for snacks, soups, salads, curries, stir-fries, smoothies, pancakes, muffins and much more.



# Force bulbs into bloom

Enjoy an early spring by forcing plants to flower indoors during winter

**G**rown in pots and put outside, bulbs will flower at the same time as they would if they were growing in a garden bed or border. But you can make them bloom earlier and cheer the midwinter gloom.

Tulips, hyacinths, crocuses, freesias, snowdrops, jonquils and daffodils can all be forced to bloom out of season.

## GROW TIP

When planting several bulbs in one pot, position them close together but make sure they're not touching.

## Create a display

Choose early flowering varieties and plant them in autumn.

The bulbs should start flowering 12-15 weeks after planting, depending on the type. Hyacinths and narcissi take about 12 weeks, and others a little longer.

For a continuous show of blooms throughout winter, plant up pots at 2-3 week intervals.





## PLANT IN POTS

Use a specialised bulb potting mix to grow them in pots indoors.

➤ **SPREAD** a generous layer of damp potting mix in a pot. Add the bulbs, fill around with mix so the tips just show, then firmly press down the mix.

➤ **COVER** the pot with a black plastic bag and position it where the temperature will stay cool such as a shed, cold frame or garage.

➤ **CHECK** how the shoots are developing and that the mix doesn't dry out.

➤ **BRING** them inside when the shoots reach 25-50mm and keep in a cool place out of direct sunlight until the shoots turn green, then move to a lighter spot.

➤ **MOVE** to the flowering position when the buds show, preferably a bright area where the temperature doesn't exceed 20°C.

➤ **WATER** as needed and feed weekly with a high-potash indoor plant fertiliser. ➤



To support the flowers as they open, insert thin canes around the edge of the pot





## FINISHED FLOWERING?

Deadhead when the blooms start to fade but leave the stalks intact. Move to a cold frame, continuing to water and feed with a high-potash fertiliser until the leaves yellow.

Forced bulbs shouldn't be used a second year as house plants. Store them in a cool, dark place over summer and plant them in the garden in autumn.

While most bulbs will flower outside in the first spring after they have been replanted, don't expect a spectacular display.



Let the foliage die down so the bulbs can store enough energy to flower next year

## RAISE IN WATER

Grow a single bulb in a vase of water to create a long-lasting fragrant floral display for any room in your home.



**1 ADD CLEAN PEBBLES** to a 150mm tall glass vase to about 50mm deep. Position the bulb on the top in the centre, then add more pebbles to cover just up to the tip of the bulb.



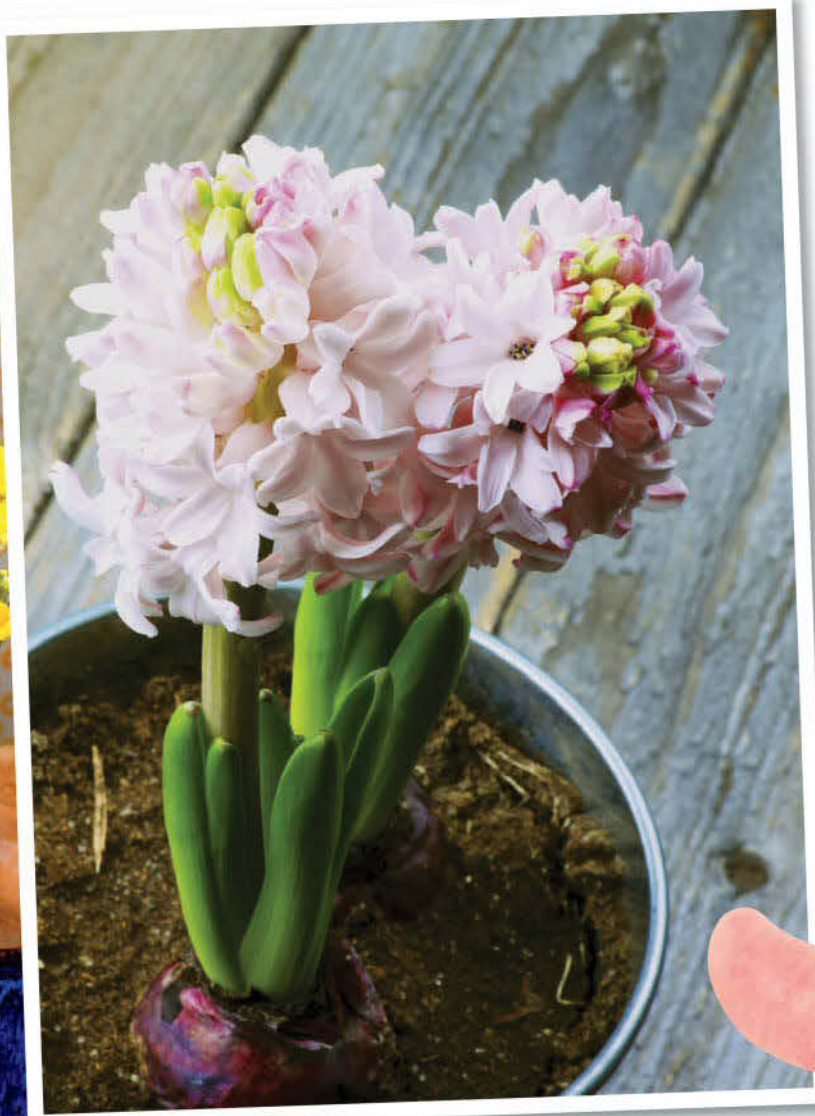
**2 POUR IN WATER** to reach the base of the bulb so the roots grow in water but the bulb stays dry, to avoid rotting. Put the vase in a cool, dry place until roots form, then move to a sunny spot.

## DESIGN TIP

Avoid mixing bulb types in the same pot as they'll flower at varying times, making the display look untidy.







Tulip

## Pick of the bulbs

When choosing bulbs, select only those that are heavy and firm. If the bulb feels light, then it could be dead inside. If it's soft, it may have a fungal disease.

Tulip bulbs, in particular, need an intact outer skin to prevent dehydration and damage. 🌱

Daffodil

Jonquil

Hyacinth

Grape hyacinth

Freesia



## PREP VEGIES

Rip open one or two paper bags and spread them over your benchtop when peeling vegetables, shelling peas, or doing any other messy job. When you're done, simply fold the paper and throw it all into the compost.

## DRY HERBS

Wash and thoroughly dry several bunches of herbs and place them upside down in a paper bag. Tie the bag at the stems, punch in a few holes and put it in a warm, dry place for two weeks. Grind the herbs, then store.

## CATCH DUST

Remove dust from a mop by placing a paper bag over the head, then use string or a rubber band to stop it slipping. Shake and gently bump the mop so the dust falls into the bag, let the dust settle, then take off the bag.

## BOOST COMPOST

A great addition to any compost heap, brown paper bags contain less ink and pigment than newspaper, and attract more worms. First shred and wet the bags, then mix into the compost well so they don't dry out and blow away.

## SPRAY STUFF

You don't have to make a mess when spray-painting small items. Just place what you're painting inside a large paper bag and it will contain the excess spray. Once the item has dried, remove it and throw the bag away.

**5**  
extraordinary  
uses for  
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# Handyman

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### KITCHEN

Check out our before and after kitchen renovations, and design inspiration.

**PLUS** Buyer's guide to appliances, cabinets, benchtops, and more.

### GARDEN

Create a tropical garden even in cooler regions, and plant bare-root roses now.

**PLUS** How worms enrich the soil and help plants thrive.

### OUTDOOR

Step-by-step projects to build a boundary fence and a retaining wall.

**PLUS** How to install drainage to keep water away from your house.



# Choose the right bulb

for your home

## Good lighting



### EcoClassic

Classic shape

Up to 2,000 hours lifetime

Up to 30% energy savings\*



Fully dimmable

Instant on

\* Similar light output with less power consumption compared to Philips incandescent lamps

### Total cost of ownership

#### Incandescent vs EcoClassic

	GLS 100W	Similar light output to	EcoClassic 70W	
	0%	Save energy up to	30%*	
Incandescent	1,000 HRS	Lifetime	2,000 HRS	EcoClassic

^ Savings with 1 EcoClassic A55 bulb \$14.22

^^ Savings with 10 EcoClassic A55 bulb \$142.20

^ Energy savings based on \$0.27 per Kwh as per EECA New Zealand

^^ Energy savings calculated across the lifetime of EcoClassic A55 bulb

## Better lighting



### Tornado CFLi

Huge range for most applications

Up to 8,000 hours lifetime

Up to 75% energy savings\*



Can handle voltage fluctuations\*\*

\* Similar light output with less power consumption compared to Philips incandescent lamps

\*\* Can handle fluctuation in power 170-250V

### Total cost of ownership

#### Incandescent vs CFLi

	GLS 100W	Similar light output to	CFLi 24W	
	0%	Save energy up to	75%*	
Incandescent	1,000 HRS	Lifetime	8,000 HRS	Tornado CFLi

^ Savings with 1 CFLi Tornado bulb \$164.16

^^ Savings with 10 CFLi Tornado bulb \$1,641.60

^ Energy savings based on \$0.27 per Kwh as per EECA New Zealand

^^ Energy savings calculated across the lifetime of CFLi Tornado bulb

## Best lighting



### LEDbulb

Direct retrofit for incandescent and fluorescent bulbs

Up to 15,000 hours lifetime



Up to 80% energy savings\*

Instant on

\* Similar light output with less power consumption compared to Philips incandescent lamps

### Total cost of ownership

#### Incandescent vs LEDbulb

	GLS 75W	Similar light output to	LED 10.5W	
	0%	Save energy up to	80%*	
Incandescent	1,000 HRS	Lifetime	15,000 HRS	LED

^ Savings with 1 LEDbulb \$258.60

^^ Savings with 10 LEDbulb \$2,586.00

^ Energy savings based on \$0.27 per Kwh as per EECA New Zealand

^^ Energy savings calculated across the lifetime of LEDbulb